

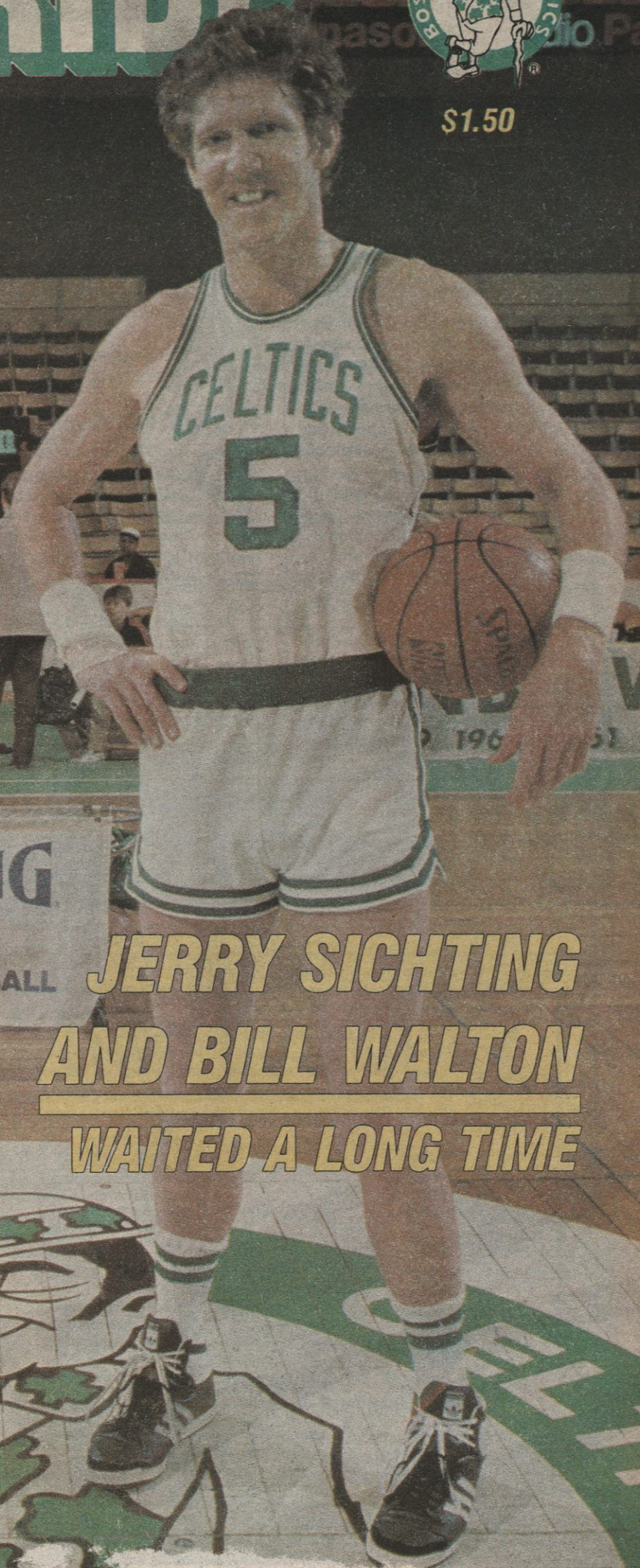
★ ★ ★ UNSUNG PLAYOFF HEROES ★ ★ ★

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 15
May 19, 1986



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**JERRY SICHTING
AND BILL WALTON
WAITED A LONG TIME**

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THE ARENA



Bob Cousy: on WLVI

The Celtics Network

The Boston Celtics are competing in their seventh post-season season this week. Their presence is the 33rd time they have appeared in the professional basketball playoffs. They have won 15 NBA titles. It is not surprising, then, that other sources such as media and other teams, should call upon the team's former players for expertise when championships are to be won.

Following is a list of former Celtics players and coaches who are active during this season's playoffs, not with the team itself:

PLAYER OR COACH

Bob Cousy
Television Broadcaster, WLVI
Bill Russell
Television Analyst, WTBS
Tom Heinsohn
Television Analyst, Sports-channel (Boston) CBS
Television
Bill Sharman
President, Los Angeles Lakers
Bill Fitch
Coach, Houston Rockets
Don Nelson
Coach, Milwaukee Bucks
Paul Silas
Assistant Coach, New Jersey Nets

CBS's O'Brien

Pat O'Brien, the articulate and informed journalist who hosts CBS's "At the Half" theme show at half-times of games televised on CBS, attended the Green's practice, April 21, the day after Michael Jordan's 63-point performance at the Garden. While the team watched films, he shot some baskets and proved that he is a fine journalist. He had some thoughtful

opinions about the Celtics and their players.

"The Celtics are the only team I'd pay to watch. They're so fundamentally sound. They pass; they hit the open man. Larry's Larry. And I love watching Walton play.

"What is needed is for the Celtics to play more games in the West. Only two games against the Lakers is an injustice. And they play some interesting games against teams like Portland and Denver.

"But the Celtics' players are interesting to people. Like today, we're doing a piece on Danny Ainge. He's an athlete people want to know more about. He's scrappy—I think he represents the middle class work ethic. And Larry Bird is (I think) a misunderstood athlete—he has his own way of doing things. As a journalist, you never know if Larry will talk, but if he does, he always has something interesting to say about basketball.

"I have not been able to get two words out of Robert Parish...

"Bill Walton, for any of us Baby Boomers who grew up in the sixties, Bill is The Dream Machine."

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 15 MAY 19, 1986

Cover...

For both Jerry Sichting and Bill Walton its been a long, uncertain time since they came close to the NBA playoffs. They're in it now and making the most of it.

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The playoffs are particularly special for these two intense Celtics.

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The playoffs seem to spawn unsung heroes. Here's a look at some of the Celtics heroes.

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Many of the Celtics reflect on their time off the floor during the playoffs.

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All is not roses on the NBA Road but David is pleased to be where he is.

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The Celtics "ninth man" reflects on current happenings and feelings.

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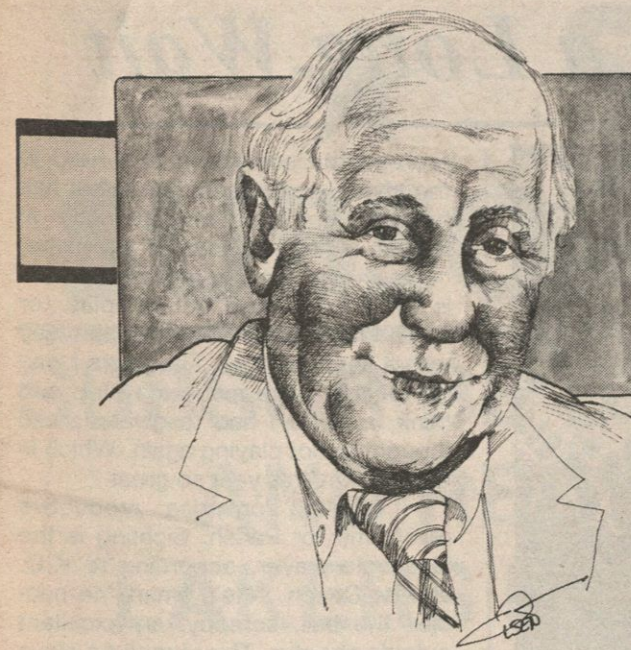
Greg has been more visible recently and more physical.

28 Sam Vincent

It's been a tough adjustment for Sam but he has endured and benefited.

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Ask Red Auerbach

conversations with another team's general manager, or you instigate a phone call. Then you work around all the legalities and the relative values of the players until it comes to a meeting of the minides.

QUESTION: When you want to sign a free agent, what process must you go through?

RED'S ANSWER: The main process to consider in signing a free agent is simply whether you want him on your team. Next, the main consideration is whether he can fit in under the salary cap. Then, of course, you've got to realize that the team that owns him has the option of matching your offer and taking the player back.

QUESTION: How did you get started with the Celtics?

Kevin Nowak
Stamford, CT

RED'S ANSWER: Well, I was coaching at Tri-Cities during the 1949-50 season, and I was contacted by Walter Brown, the owner of the Celtics, to see if I had any interest in coming to Boston to coach the Celtics. I did, and Ben Kerner, the owner of the team I was coaching, gave me permission to leave the Blackhawks.

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: What are some major differences between today's players and yesteryear's players?

Darren Weiner
Newton, MA

RED'S ANSWER: I think the players today have a little more variety in their game; they play a little more above the basket. But, basically, things haven't changed so much. The only difference is that today you have more great players. Years ago, you had fewer, but nobody can tell me that Havlicek, Cousy, Sharman, Jerry West, Wilt, Oscar Robertson, Elgin Baylor, Bob Pettit and many others wouldn't have been great players whenever and whenever they had played. They were great players then, and they would have been great players today.

QUESTION: Which do you enjoy more — coaching or general managing? Why?

Mark McKnight
Boston, MA

RED'S ANSWER: That depends on your age. When you're young, you want to be in the midst of things, where all the action is, and you have the energy to fight for everything. When you get older, that's more difficult, and although you try to compensate through your experience, it doesn't work that way. In my opinion, to coach you have to have that youthful drive; when you get older, you adapt better as general manager.

QUESTION: When draft day comes around, and it's time for the Celtics to make their first round pick, and you need a forward, but there is an excellent guard left, what do you do, and why?

Nancy Barrow
Hartford, CT

RED'S ANSWER: There's no point taking a forward, or taking anybody, unless you felt he can contribute and really help your ballclub. If the guard is a better basketball player, even if it gives us a temporary imbalance of guards, you've got to take him.

QUESTION: When you want to make a trade with another team, what process must you go through?

Ann Davidson
Portland, ME

RED'S ANSWER: There's no set way to make a deal with another team. It starts through casual

Future Issues Schedule

ISSUE 16 — MAILED - May 27
ISSUE 17 — MAILED - June 23
ISSUE 18 — MAILED - July 21
ISSUE 19 — MAILED - Aug. 25

ISSUE 20 — MAILED - Sept. 29
ISSUE 1 (VOL. 2) — MAILED - Oct. 13
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Sichting and Walton: It's Been a Long Wait

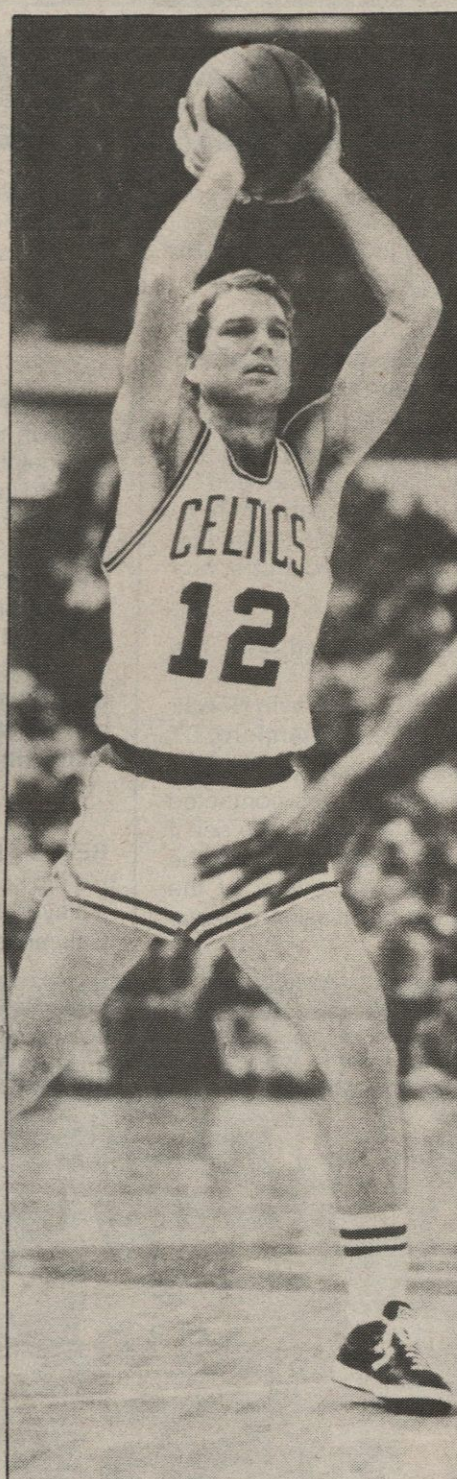
The Boston Celtics are taking dead aim on their 16th franchise championship in 1986 and it is a touch ironic that two of the key players in the team's surge are a pair of men who were out of basketball as recently as the season (1979-80) Larry Joe Bird stepped onto the parquet floor for the first time as a Celtic and signaled the resumption of the Celtics dynasty.

Bill Walton, arguably the greatest collegiate player ever at UCLA, was forced to sit out three entire seasons (1978-79 in Portland and 1980-82 with the Clippers) because as he reflects now, "My foot kept breaking every time I played the game." The Celtics obtained Walton from Los Angeles before the season began and he played in 80 games this year. As he left the floor for the final time during the regular season (in the C's April 13th 135-107 win over the Nets), Walton made eye contact with Trainer Ray Melchiorre, and stated "Eighty!" He shook a triumphant fist.

Jerry Sichting was a quick and feisty guard who never really received a legitimate chance in the Warrior camp in his rookie year. He was a late cut; because of the time of his release, he was forced to miss a season of play in 1979-80. "You don't care about playing on a championship team in those circumstances," he declared last week. "All you think about is getting back into the league. First things first." Sichting's year in Boston has been an answer to a problem, a happy ending to a love affair. The Celtics needed outside shooting, and Sichting delivered, shooting .570 in 19.5 minutes per game. Boston needed speed and quickness to defend the Thomas, Webb, and Hodges types, and Sichting has matched these playoff caliber opponents.

The Celtics are playing the Hawks in the second round of the playoffs this week; it represents Walton's first post-season action in seven years, and Sichting's most meaningful participation in his career. Yet they seem to be primed for maximum contributions. Walton has won three major championships (two at UCLA and another with the 1976-77 Portland Trail Blazers). He is an experienced player whose concentration and effectiveness increase in important games. Sichting's utility is derived from a different source: in high exposure games, stars either play brilliantly and neutralize each other, or these great players at times tend to try too hard. They press. Players like Sichting --- level-headed, silently confident understated---thrive under pressure. Sichting has already knocked home critical shots (Game 2 of the Chicago series).

After coming into the NBA as one



Sichting makes defense honest.

of the most heralded rookies in league history in 1974, Bill Walton suffered through hard times with Portland. He played injured, and he performed with a team which was not very good. But finally, with the arrival of Dr. Jack Ramsay as coach and a plethora of talented role players (Maurice Lucas, Dave Twardzik, Bobby Gross), the team stormed through the playoffs and won the Championship in 1976-77. Walton was not a one-man team, but his individual game was so complete, team-oriented, and inspirational (His numbers in the finals against Philadelphia were 18.5 ppg, 19 rebounds, 22 blocks), he drove the Blazers, the heart of the ballclub. Without deifying the man, his game is perfect fundamentally: He's a brilliant passer, he has touch on his jumper,



Walton is so glad to be here.

his timing is astute (because he thinks the game all the time), and his defense and rebounding are extraordinary.

"In the professional game, everybody's game gets better," he says while working on weights after a Celtic practice. "For three reasons: the 24-second clock, the caliber of the players you play against which makes you a better player, and the no zone defense rule. These factors force your game to improve and it also makes the game a lot more fun to play.

"Man, I am so glad to be here--- every day I wake up and thank the Lord I am in Boston playing basketball. Every day."

Walton has steadfastly maintained liberal political beliefs and because of his visibility, he has

represented something of a hero to the sixties generation. Yet, what has been a constant characteristic in Boston is his pure love of the game. "The only time I don't love the game is when I'm injured...I can't play...or when I have to go out there and play with a serious injury. The years I was out of the game made me stop and think, mature. I had to give realistic thought to not playing again. Which is what makes this year so great."

If Walton provides productive relief time for Parish, Sichting is the ideal role player, according to K.C. Jones, Coach. "He's smart, he handles the ball, scrappy, an excellent outside shooter. The reason he plays so well off the bench is he's so smart."

"My job is to make the defense play more honest," says Sichting, an uncomplicated man. "My main objective is to rove around the perimeter, mostly off of set plays.

"Every player wants to play in pressure situations, in the playoffs. There's pressure, but you keep your mind focused, you block (the pressure) out. But I'm not denying that it is difficult to control your emotions. But you can't get caught up...Rather, you let the situation pump you up. When the game's there to be (won), it forces you to play your whole game. The playoffs are more physical, more intense; it seems it's a lot harder to get easy shots. Teams won't give layups, won't make many mistakes."

Sichting thinks the turning point for him this season was "The Christmas Day game in New York, just like the whole team (the Knicks rallied from a 25-point deficit to defeat Boston, 113-104 in 2 OT). K.C. told us he would begin playing the bench more, and as my time increased, my confidence increased."

A discernible roar grows, now, as either Walton or Sichting get up off the bench, shed their warmups, and walk down the sideline to report in.

"I watch the ebb and flow in the 1st quarter. You can learn just by watching," observes the guard. "What plays the opponent's using, how they're defending us."

"I've learned how to be ready when you come into the game," says Walton, long a starter, an MVP, 1st Team Defense and All-Pro. "You don't have the luxury of being loose physically. You learn to stay alert mentally on the bench."

The essence of the magnificent Celtics season: a deep, experienced, artistic, talented team. "Off the bench, support and error-free basketball matter," Jones points out. "Stats do not."

"Winning counts, stats don't--- especially in the playoffs," says Walton. "Just try to play good basketball and help the team win."

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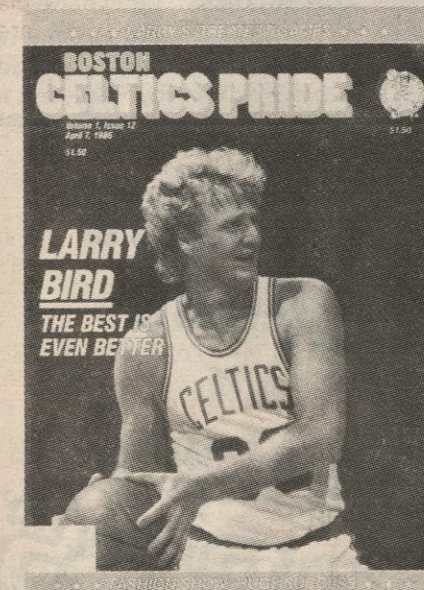
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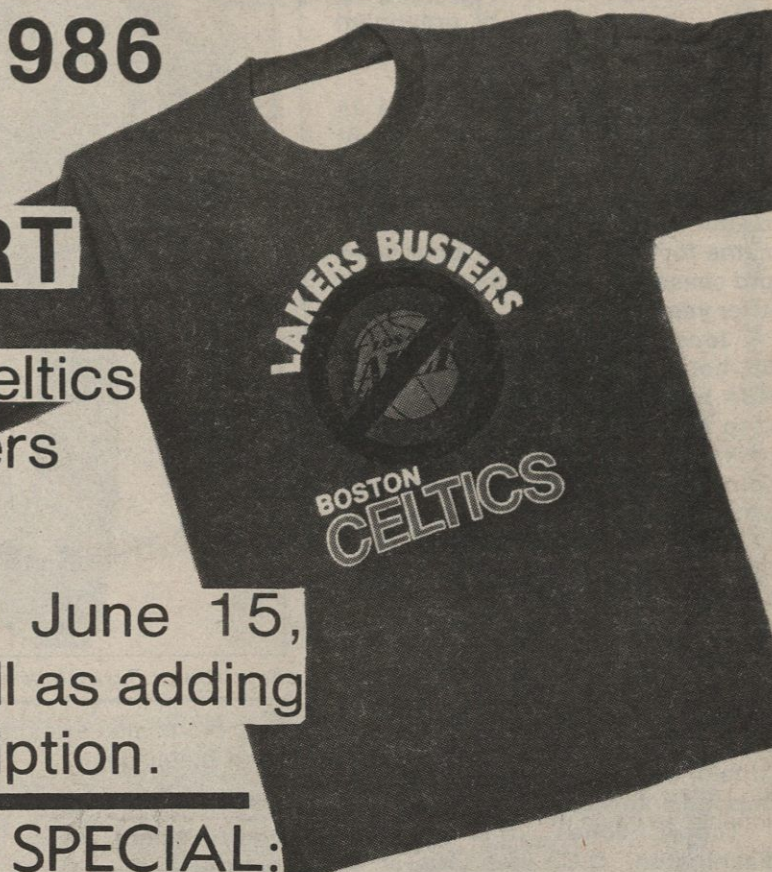
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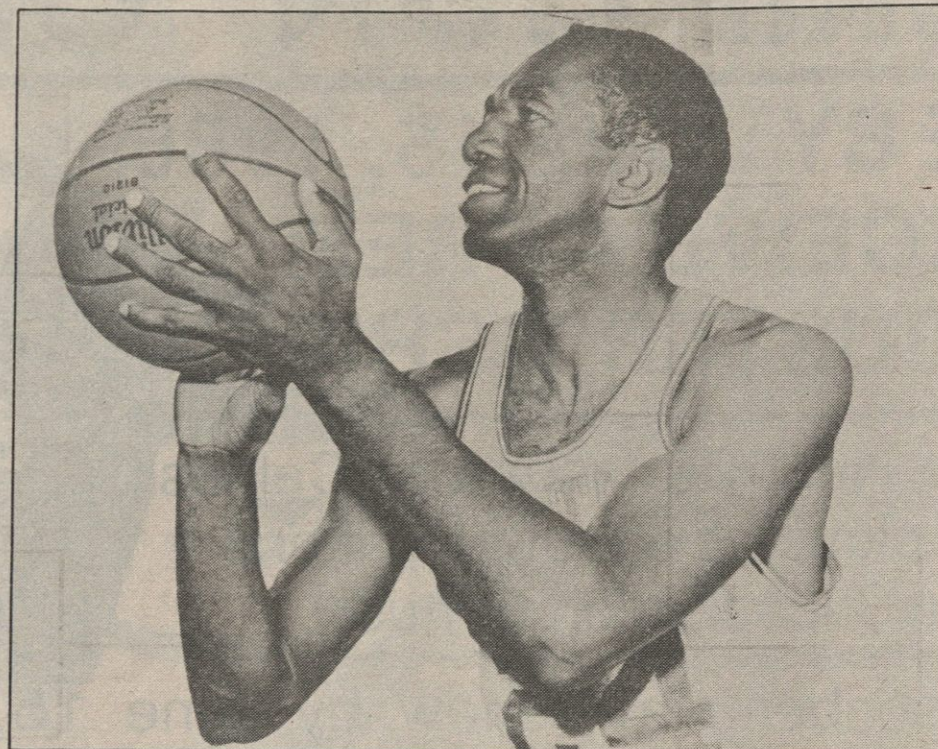
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Innerview

Sam Jones



Sam Jones: Basketball was business.

One of the most familiar names in the lore of the Boston Celtics is that of guard Sam Jones. The Hall of Famer is one of best backcourt players ever to grace the NBA, and he was a prominent member of those dominant Celtics teams of the 1950s and 1960s.

Jones joined the Celtics as an unheralded first-round pick out of North Carolina College in 1957 and rode the bench in his rookie campaign. But Jones began to make a name for himself in his sophomore pro season and grew in stature year after year.

Jones ended his career in 1968-69, helping the Celtics win another NBA title. That Jones was 36 didn't stop him from being a force to be reckoned with—he averaged 16.3 points a game that final year and wound up with a career norm of 17.6. Jones' best average was 1964-65, when he dropped in 25.9 points a night. Said former teammate Bill Russell of Jones: "Sam had a champion's heart. When the pressure was greatest, he was eager for the ball. In the seventh game of the championship series, I'll take Sam over anyone who ever stepped onto a basketball court."

Today, Jones lives in the Washington, D.C. area. He is a representative for Nike as well as the Miller Brewing Co. You've doubtlessly seen the Lite Beer spot that features the Jones boys—Sam and K.C. Both are members of the Lite All-Stars and take part in all their spots.

Celtics Pride had a chance to chat with Jones recently...

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you wind up with Miller?

JONES: They have agents who get in touch with us to see how we'd pan out. I do a lot of public speaking for Miller, more than I do commercials. They take certain people out of the sports world to do the commercials, and they can only be retired players.

CELTICS PRIDE: Are those commercials as fun as they seem to be on television?

JONES: It's sort of exciting—they're a nice bunch of people. But let me tell you that television is hard work, no doubt about it. The people have a lot of fun, but you have to have a purpose and you have to be serious. But we try to have fun. They have a good production crew and good people. Miller has good people working for them.

CELTICS PRIDE: What about your public speaking?

JONES: I speak all over the United States—promotions for Miller, incen-

tive programs, sales programs and sales meetings.

CELTICS PRIDE: So it seems as if you're doing well in your post-basketball life.

JONES: Even though I played basketball, it was still a job. The things that made us successful in basketball are the same things that make us successful in business.

CELTICS PRIDE: What has been the key to your success outside of basketball?

JONES: I don't think there is a key. Basketball was something we'd been doing all our lives, and it's an adjustment to come back down to the real world. It's two different worlds in terms of pay and work status. It's fantasy land. Only in professional sports can you earn these kind of salaries. Actually we didn't make that much money when I was playing. For these guys today, it's different. I hope they prepare for life when they finish playing.

CELTICS PRIDE: Speaking of playing, describe your career with the Celtics...

JONES: It was great. No doubt about that. When you win, you always have good things to say. A lot of our winning had to do with Red Auerbach. He made a good choice when he made me the number-one pick. And he had never seen me play!

CELTICS PRIDE: So how did he find out about you?

JONES: He didn't know anything

reaction to joining the Celtics?

JONES: I'd never been to a pro basketball game until I played in one. I knew nothing about pro ball.

CELTICS PRIDE: It seems that all the players on those great Celtics teams got along very well with each other. Would you agree?

JONES: We did. And I'm still friends with the guys I played with --- Loscutoff, Cousy, Havlicek, Heinsohn...

CELTICS PRIDE: You played until you were 36. Why did you last so long?

JONES: I keep my body clean—it's always been clean. I don't drink, I don't smoke and never did drugs of any kind. I'm still the same way today. I've always been in shape. I weigh less now than when I was playing.

CELTICS PRIDE: Describe your final year with the Celtics...

JONES: That was my last championship. Most people say the first one is sweetest, but I say the last one is best, when you're retiring and you know it's your last time around. The first one is nice, but you know you'll have chances at more. When your retiring, you know it's your last chance at the title.

We'd finished fourth that season, and nobody expected us to do much in the playoffs. How sweet it was.

CELTICS PRIDE: What was your

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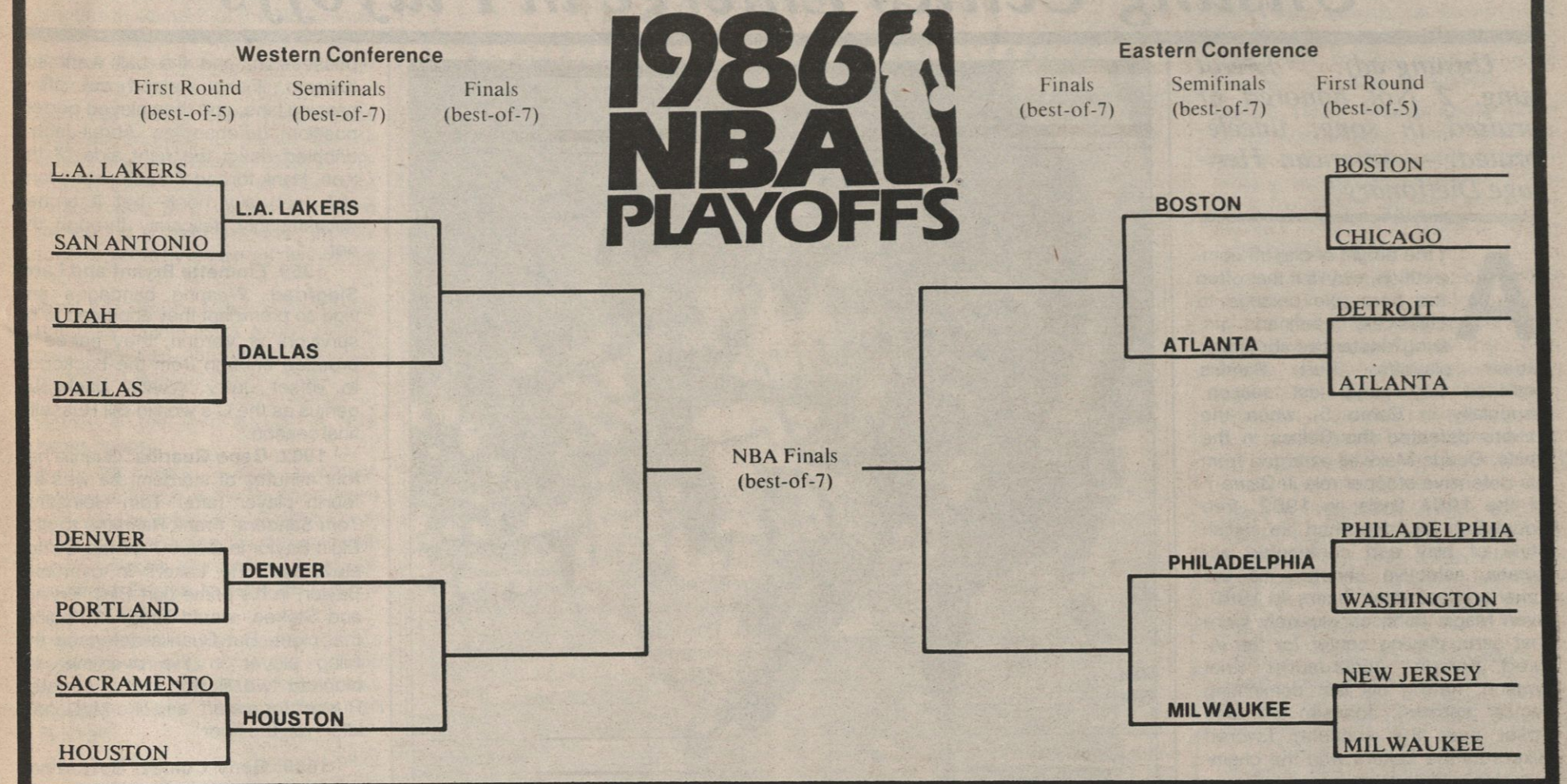
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Unsung Celtics Emerge in Playoffs

Unsung adj. 1. Not sung. 2. Not honored or praised in song; uncelebrated. ---American Heritage Dictionary.

At the height of playoff competition, why is it that often the hero role belongs to classically defined unsung? Instances abound in recent playoffs: Kurt Rambis provided key plays last season, especially in Game 5, when the Lakers defeated the Celtics in the finals. Cedric Maxwell emerged from his defensive stopper role in Game 7 of the 1984 finals; in 1982, free agent Bob McAdoo shed his selfish style of play and contributed accurate, selective shooting as the Lakers defeated the Sixers. In 1980, even Magic Johnson elusively wore that garb; playing center for the injured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (that season, having his last dominating regular season), Johnson led LA's upset over the suddenly favored Sixers as the Lakers won the championship in Philadelphia.

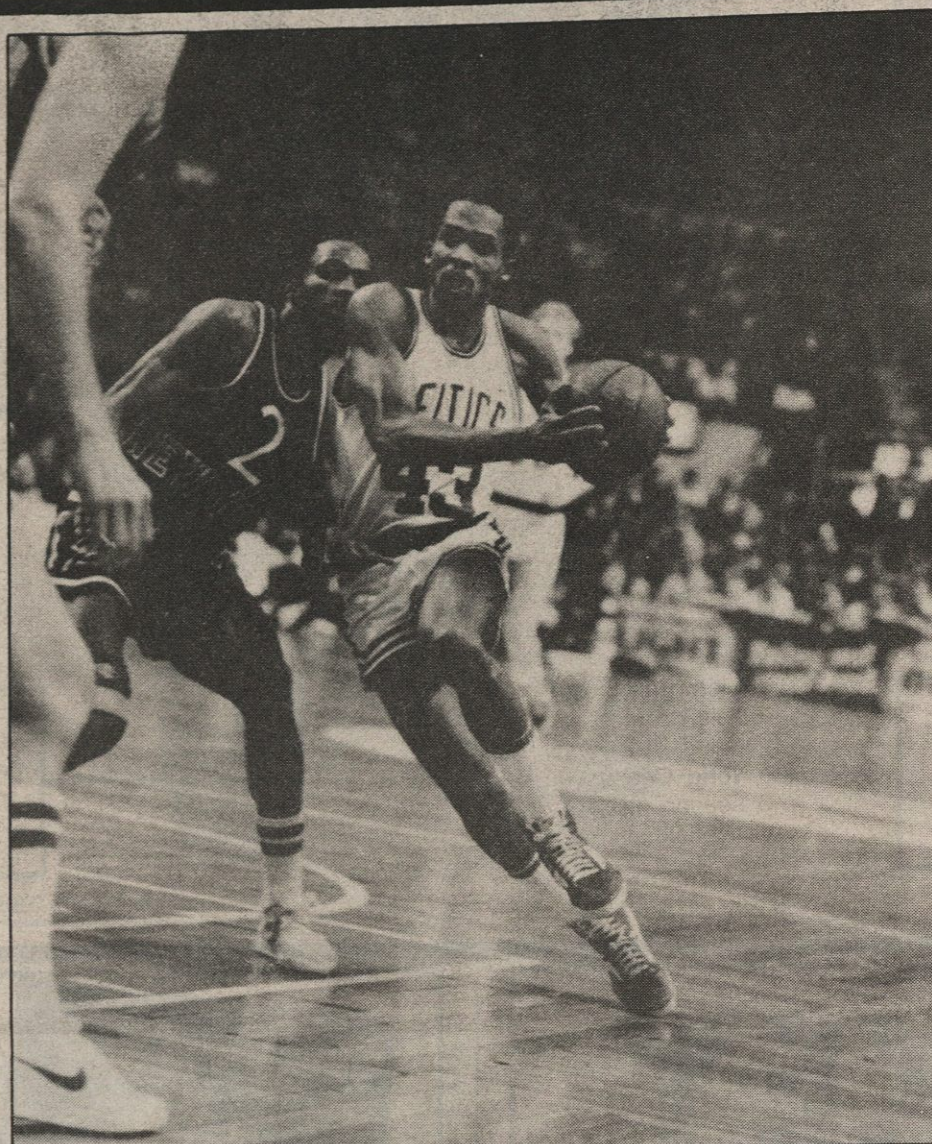
To answer why unexpected heroes emerge, conditions have to be remembered. High stakes and maximum pressure. Teams know that in order to win, they must halt the opposition's key players. Whether this strategy succeeds or not, fatigue is a factor. Great players are human. At the end of the long season, they may withstand constant double or triple teaming. But they may do that by setting up teammates, first. Or tiring out, finally, themselves.

Following are some of the most memorable Celtics unsung playoff performances:

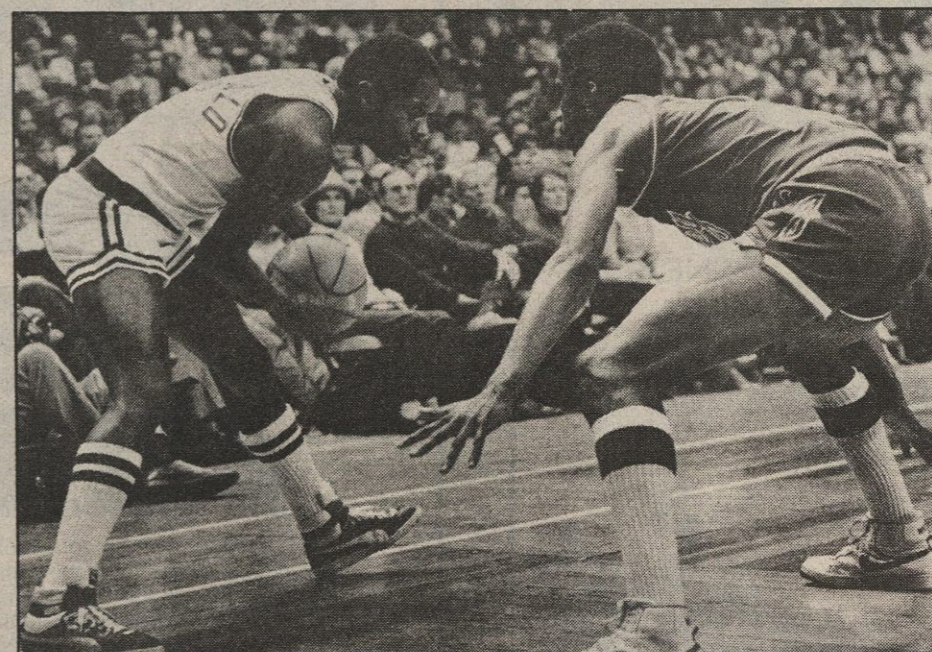
1984. Gerald Henderson and Scott Wedman. The memorable Game 2 of the 1983-84 championship: Henderson, with the Celtics trailing by 2 in the final seconds, stole a James Worthy pass, scored, and sent the game into overtime. In the overtime, it was Wedman. He scored a baseline jumper with the Celtics trailing by 1 and less than a minute remaining.

1981. Cedric Maxwell. Maxwell took over the 5th game of the finals against Houston and Moses Malone, scoring 28, grabbing 15 rebounds, and blocking 2 shots.

1976. Glenn McDonald. This was a speedy forward who became even quicker in the 3rd overtime of the legendary 5th game against the Phoenix Suns in the Boston Garden. Paul Silas, David Cowens, and Charley Scott had fouled out of the game, the Garden was steamy, and players on both teams were seeing their equilibrium seep away.



Gerald Henderson stole the 1983-84 Championship.



Glenn McDonald: Came through in the "Game of Games"

Enter McDonald. Logging the most important minutes of his brief career in the last OT, he scored 6 points, ran the floor, and ignited a rally which enabled the Celts to lead by 126-120, enough to escape a final Suns charge.

1974. Hank Finkel. Finkel is noted because of what his maximum

effort could not accomplish. Replacing Cowens in Game 6 of another memorable overtime, against Abdul-Jabbar and the Milwaukee Bucks, he squared off against the youthful Buck, then completely unstoppable.

The Celtics were leading in Games, 3-2, and by 1 point with :04 remaining. The Bucks had

possession, and the ball went into Kareem. Finkel helped cut off a passing lane, and then played perfect position defense as Abdul-Jabbar dribbled down the right side of the lane. Hank forced Kareem into a long (17 feet) sky hook---but it arched devastatingly delicately through the net.

1969. Emmette Bryant and Larry Siegfried. Wearing bandages and tape so prominent they appeared to be survivors at Verdun, they paired to produce enough from the backcourt to offset Jerry West's backcourt genius as the C's won in Bill Russell's final season.

1962. Gene Guarilia. Guarilia had four minutes of stardom; he was the fourth player (after Tom Heinsohn, Tom Sanders, Frank Ramsey) to play Elgin Baylor in Game 7 as the Celtics staved off the Lakers in overtime. Baylor, in his prime part Bird, Erving, and Stokes, would score 41 points that night. But Guarilia defended the tiring player in the overtime; he blocked two Baylor shots, assisted Russell for a stuff, and like McDonald later, ran the floor.

1959. Gene Conley. Boston had little difficulty with the Minneapolis Lakers in that year's final series---their only finals 4-game sweep. Rather, their most difficult series (and according to the players on that dynasty team, one of the most stressful of the eight season reign) came in the Eastern Division final, versus the Syracuse Nats. Conley was a refugee from the baseball stadium, and played backup (18 minutes per game, 6.7 ppg) center to Russell that season. Against a team which featured physical board play (George Yardley, Dolph Schayes, John Kerr), Conley entered the 7th game of the series after Russell fouled out in overtime. He played Yardley to a standoff, and grabbed the key rebound of the game, giving Boston possession, leading 124-120.

1957. Arnie Risen. The Celtics character is based on such people. Risen, an outstanding collegiate center at Ohio State, kept the Celtics competitive after the 1956 trade of Ed Macauley to the Hawks. Bill Russell was obtained in the transaction, but Russell didn't join the Celtics until December of that season, because he had committed (with K.C. Jones) to playing in the Melbourne Olympics.

Risen manned the center position until Russell arrived; as teammate, Risen constantly worked with the young Master of Defense. Risen taught Russell shortcuts only experience and williness are able to instruct.

The Celtics won their first championship that season---of fifteen.

April 19, 1965 -- Five members of the Boston Celtics scored 20 points or more in a 129-123 victory over Los Angeles in Game 2 of the NBA Finals won by Boston 4-1. The five 20-point scorers on one team set a record for a title series game.

April 23, 1969 -- Jerry West of Los Angeles scores 53 points as the Lakers edge the Boston Celtics 120-118 in the first game of their NBA Finals won by Boston in seven games. It ranks as the highest scoring game by a guard in title series history.

April 25, 1965 -- The Boston Celtics win their eighth NBA World Championship by defeating the Los Angeles Lakers 129-96, taking the Finals 4-1. The 33-point margin of victory is the third largest in NBA Finals history.

April 28, 1966 -- Red Auerbach retires as coach of the Boston Celtics after guiding them to a 95-93 triumph over Los Angeles in the seventh game of their title series. Auerbach coached Boston to nine NBA World Championships.

May 2, 1968 -- The Boston Celtics beat Los Angeles 124-109 in Game 6 to win their first NBA World Championship under player-coach Bill Russell.

May 3, 1981 -- The Boston Celtics wipe out a double-digit, second-half deficit for the third straight time and defeat Philadelphia 91-90 in the

This Date in Celtics Playoff History

seventh game of a memorable Eastern Conference Final.

May 5, 1969 -- Bill Russell and Sam Jones, two of Boston's all-time greats, end their Celtics careers with a 108-106 seventh-game victory over Los Angeles to give Boston its 11th NBA World Championship.

May 9, 1981 -- The Boston Celtics beat Houston 94-71 in Game 3 of their title series, the Rockets' 71 points being an all-time low for a championship game. Houston's 30 first-half points were also a record low for an opening half.

May 11, 1976 -- Before a capacity crowd of 21,564 at the Richfield Coliseum, the Cleveland Cavaliers defeat the Boston Celtics 83-78 to gain their first victory in the Eastern Conference Finals. Boston went on to win the series 4-2 and later become the World Champions, but the 1975-76 season still stands as the Miracle of Richfield.

May 12, 1974 -- The Boston Celtics take their 12th NBA World Championship by defeating Milwaukee 102-87. The Celtics commit only 12 turnovers in the decisive seventh

game showdown and forward John Havlicek is voted the MVP of the NBA Finals as he averages 26.4 ppg.

May 14, 1981 -- Larry Bird scores 27 points and Cedric Maxwell adds 19 to lead Boston to a 102-91 victory over Houston, giving the club its 14th NBA World Championship. Moses Malone of the Rockets scores 23 points and grabs 16 rebounds in the losing effort.

May 19, 1982 -- Boston defeats Philadelphia 114-85 in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference Finals behind a strong defensive game, forcing 33 percent shooting by the Sixers. Celtics center Robert Parish led his club with 26 points as they narrowed the Sixers' edge in the series to 3-2, but Philly eventually went on to take the series in seven games.

May 23, 1976 -- Boston center Dave Cowens dominates the opener of one of the most memorable NBA Finals in NBA history with a 25-point, 21-rebound performance vs. Phoenix. The Celtics defeated the Suns 98-87 despite Phoenix rookie Alvan Adams leading all scorers with 26 points. Boston eventually took its 13th title, winning in six games.

May 27, 1985 -- Scott Wedman sinks four three-point field goals and shoots 11-for-11 from the field, both NBA Finals records, as Boston routs the LA Lakers 148-114. Boston's 148 points, 62 field goals and .608 team shooting also set records.

June 2, 1985 -- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers becomes the all-time leading scorer in playoff history, surpassing Jerry West's total of 4,457 points, as the Lakers beat Boston 136-111 in Game 3 of the NBA Finals.

June 4, 1976 -- Boston's Jo Jo White scores 33 points as the Celtics outlast Phoenix 128-126 in triple overtime in Game 5 of their NBA Finals, the longest title-round game ever. Phoenix forward Gar Heard, who set a playoff record for most minutes played in the game with 61, hit a buzzer-beater to force the third overtime.

June 9, 1985 -- The Los Angeles Lakers beat Boston 111-100 to win the NBA Finals behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who is unanimously voted series MVP--at 38 the oldest to ever gain that honor.

June 12, 1984 -- Boston Celtics forward Cedric Maxwell scored 24 points and the Celtics outrebound Los Angeles 52-33 to beat the Lakers 111-102 in the seventh-game showdown at Boston Garden, earning the club's 15th NBA World Championship.



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AIR JORDAN: SUPERMAN IN SNEAKERS

Michael Jordan, second-year guard of the Chicago Bulls, painted the finishing touches of a grand two-game stay against the Celtics in the opening round of the playoffs by scoring 63 points in a 135-131 double-overtime Celtics win. Jordan thus broke the one-game scoring mark, set by Elgin Baylor, also in Boston, in 1961.

The Celtics victory in the game gave the Green a 2-0 lead in the playoff series and the triumph was an important one because Boston did not want to go into Chicago with the series tied. Boston finished the series in Game 3, winning 124-103, in the Chicago Stadium.

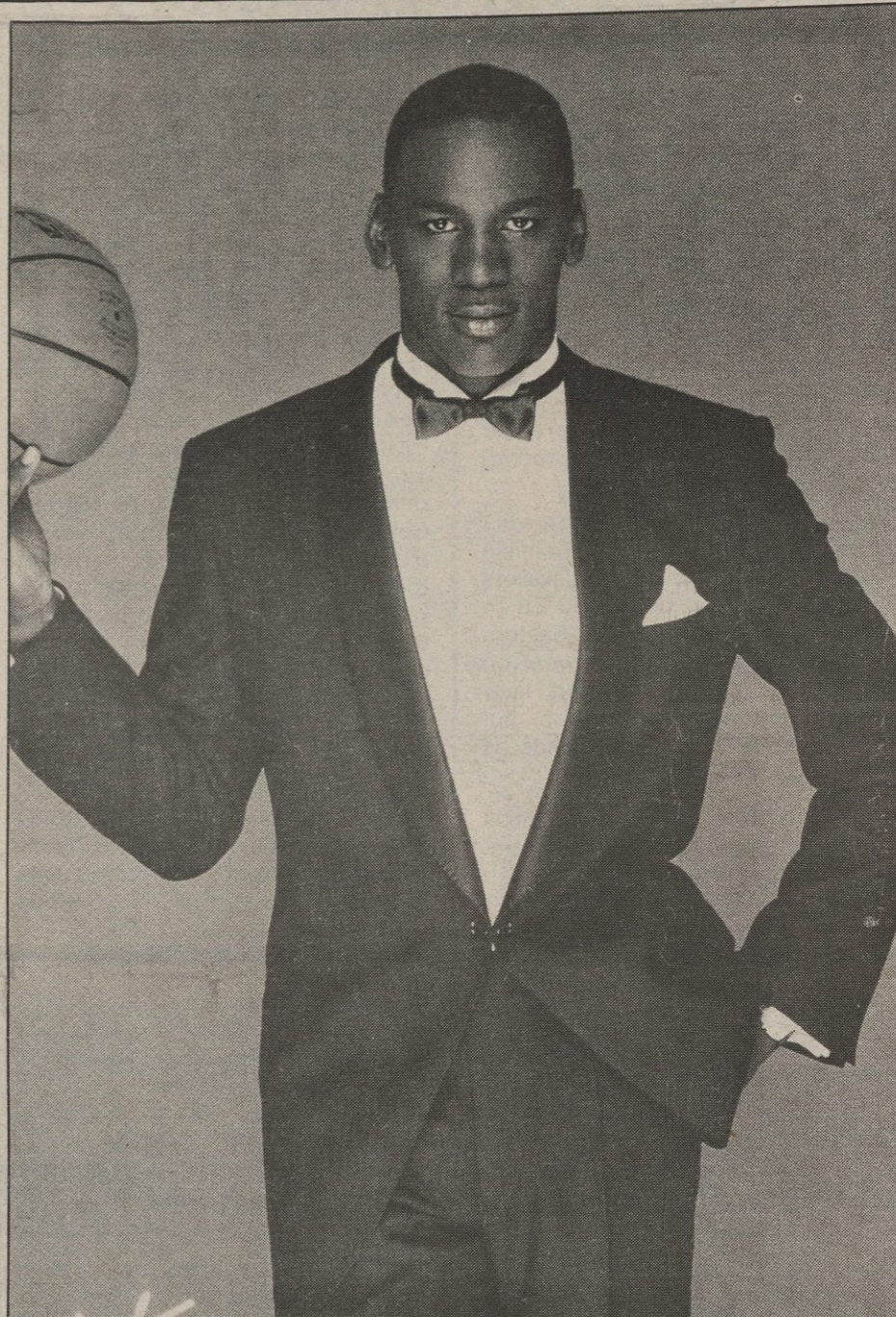
Jordan actually constructed ten near-perfect periods of basketball in the Garden, April 17 (Game 1) and April 20 (Game 2). In the opening game of the series, he tallied 30 in the first half, and he altered the complexion of the series permanently. The Bulls had finished the regular season at 30-52. The Celtics are arguably one of the finest teams in NBA history, if they continue on to the NBA title. Because Jordan had missed 64 games this season with a broken foot, few could have expected the type of play he demonstrated. What had been considered a mismatch had suddenly been transformed into a death match.

In the opening game, Jordan carried the Bulls to an early lead, but Boston regrouped early, gained the lead at halftime, and pulled away in the second half for an impressive 123-104 win. Jordan finished the game with 49 points; despite the win, the Celtics were a shaken victor.

Jerry Sichting said afterwards, "The guy's a machine. You can't stop him. He moves too fast and jumps too high."

"No one person can guard Jordan. Nobody has and nobody ever will. He can hang in the air for three or four seconds and by the time he comes down, he's either drawn the foul or put it in the basket," added K.C. Jones.

Michael Jordan is a 6-6, 190 Guard, born in Brooklyn, but brought up in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was recruited heavily after standout junior and senior years in high school at Laney High, finally deciding on North Carolina and Coach Dean Smith. He instantly signatured his college career by scoring the game-winning basket in the NCAA title game as a freshman, when the Tar Heels defeated Georgetown, 63-62. His teammates on that Tar Heel club included James Worthy and Sam Perkins. UNC defeated Patrick Ewing in the 1982 classic. Jordan was College Player of the Year as a Sophomore and Junior before declaring pro before his Senior



Michael Jordan: Was a Scoring Machine.

season. His rookie year in Chicago (the 3rd player selected in the 1984 draft) was sensational: 28.2 ppg, 6 rpg, 5 apg, .845 FT Pct. He was starting guard on the Eastern All-Star Team. This season was halted in

regular season game 3: a broken foot sidelined him until late in the season.

Jordan complained loudly when forced to sit late in the year, arguing he was ready to play but accusing the Bulls of holding him out because the

team wanted to slip down into the lottery. Chicago edged Washington in the season's final weekend to make the 8th and last spot in the playoffs.

The impact of Jordan's Game 1 was so comprehensive that the Celtics prepared in practice against permitting players like Charles Oakley, Dave Corzine, and Kyle Macy from hurting them. Jordan's accomplishment had this magnitude: He scored 49, and it was within the team offense. And he continued this style in the record-setting Game 2. The Bulls started fast, and Jordan began scoring, then tallying at will. There were long distance jump shots. There were electrifying baseline dunks. Drives over Robert Parish, and though Kevin McHale and Bill Walton. It was a heavyweight encounter of Jordan, against five great players. And for much of the contest, it appeared the One would sky to victory. The context must be recalled at the time in the series, the Bulls were the aggressors, and the Celtics did not want to go to Chicago 1-1 in the series.

Memorable plays splashed across the double-overtime landscape, star players performing stunning background roles. Larry Bird scored 36, including an improbable 30-foot 3-PT FG, with the shot clock at two. Kevin McHale scrambled after a loose ball, and scored half-prone, draped on Corzine back. Danny Ainge, scoreless much of the day, still ended with 24 and sent the game into the overtimes, with a powerful lefthanded drive.

Yet it was Jordan. He broke the record during OT II, rallying the Bulls into a 131-131 tie on consecutive jumpers. Dramatically, he created the overtimes with two free throws after time had expired, standing alone in the Garden, sole warrior. And later, after it was over, and the Celtics had won, he had knocked the victory down, woozy, despite winning.

"I didn't think anyone was capable of doing what Michael has done to us in the past two games," said Bird. For a long while, the Celtics locker room was silent, in awe. Almost there was an unheard echo: Bird's declaration last year, "Michael Jordan is the best player I've ever seen."

Perhaps the best measurement of Jordan's effort was in the easy Celtics triumph in the 3rd and final game. Boston started strongly, swept away eventually to a 28-point lead, and rushed immediate double teams at the super guard all over the floor. Boston won the series. Two of the games by 19 and 21 points. One man--Air Jordan--had made the series dangerously closer than it should have been.

Michael Jordan's 1st and 2nd Game Numbers

	Game 1	Game 2
Jordan	43 minutes 18-36 Field Goals 13-15 Free Throws 4 Rebounds 2 Assists 49 Points	53 minutes 22-41 Field Goals 19-21 Free Throws 5 Rebounds 6 Assists 63 Points

SCORING BY QUARTERS							
GAME 1	1st	2nd	3rd	4th			
Jordan	14	16	8	11			
GAME 2	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	OT	TOTAL
Jordan	17	6	13	18	5	4	63



K.C.s Corner

By The Way: I'm not Retiring

As we head into the second round of the playoffs, we encounter a number of different and similar circumstances. There are the obvious differences: it is now a five, or seven game "season", the opposite of the 82-game season. But we prepare for our opponents similarly. We make adjustments and play each game as an entity to itself. The same as we do in the regular season.

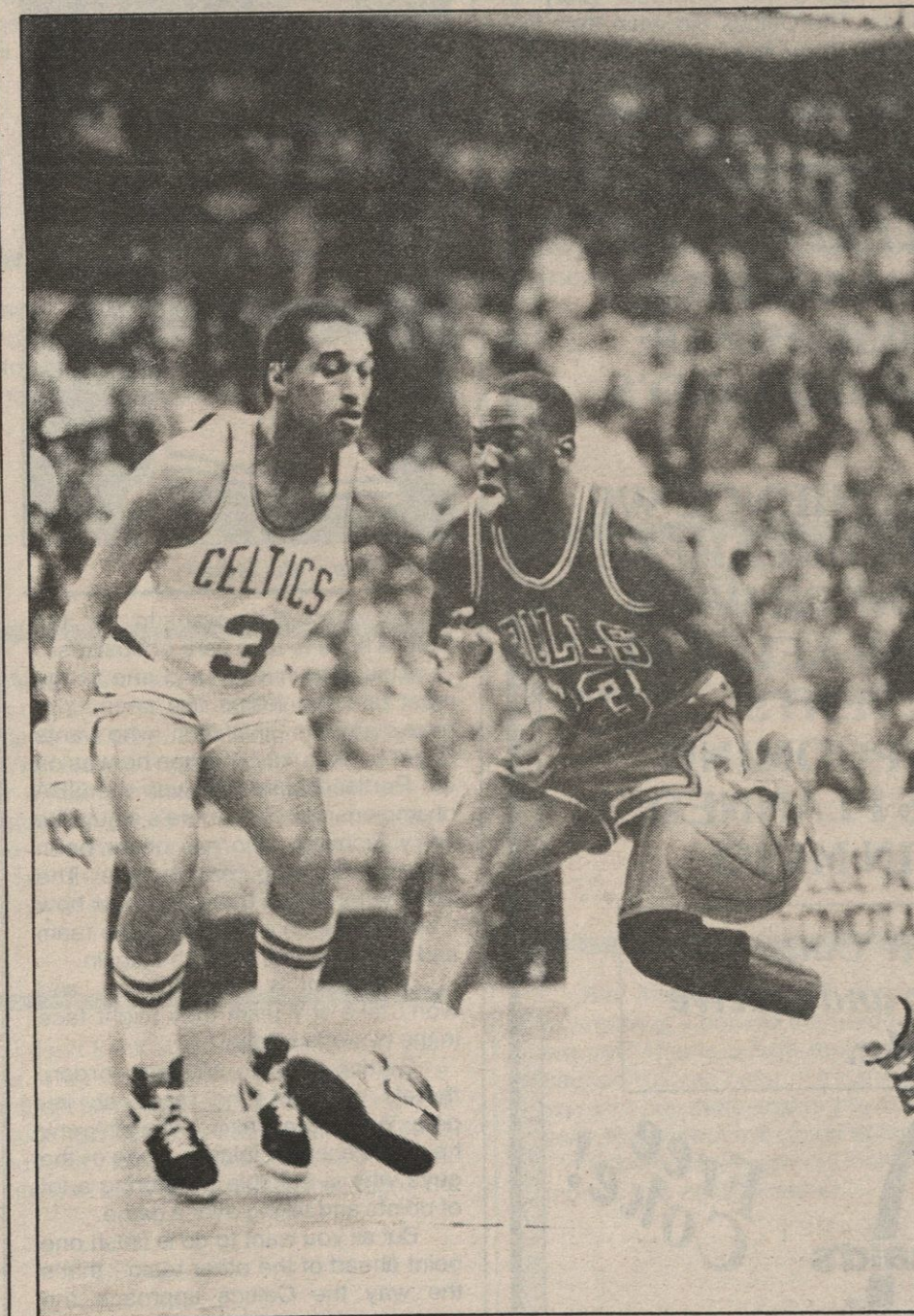
I was asked several times during the Chicago series to compare Michael Jordan with Elgin Baylor (Especially when Jordan established the new single game scoring record of 63). I played versus Baylor that night, one of four players who tried to stop him from scoring. Elgin was like a graceful eagle; powerful and graceful, in flight. But, in some ways, comparing Baylor and Jordan is attempting to construct an actual bridge across eras. Interesting idea, but factually impossible.

Baylor was a forerunner; Jordan, representing players like Dominique Wilkins and Bernard King (who was a destroyer against us in the 1984 playoffs), is unique. Jordan has speed and quickness and size. He has the outside jumper, the medium range jumper. He drives and inside, he's a foot over the basket. If you are up on him defensively, he's by you. On the double team--he's by that, too. If Larry Bird had Michael Jordan's physical ability, you would have a player who averaged 49 points a game and double figures in rebounds and assists. Classify players like Bird, Jordan, Wilkins, Magic Johnson, Barkley, Isiah Thomas. These are players of talent, elevated by modern training technique and emphasis. Their team game is strengthened over a Baylor, or Robertson, because the game has been refined over 25 years.

Defending the modern super player requires continuous adjusting. For example, in Game 1 of the Bulls series, Michael Jordan played out of

an isolation pattern. We ran double teams at him, but he got away quickly, either driving to the basket himself, or passing off the penetration. In practice after that

game, we planned to zone off underneath more; McHale, Parish, or Walton would quickly double-team, and the others would zone off momentarily to cover the vacant area (Vacant, because of the double team). But Jordan did not use the isolation too much in Game 2. He got his game going early, drew our big men into foul trouble, and these factors helped the rest of the Bulls play extremely well. A great player having a great night; there were others: Barkley had 20 rebounds vs. Washington, Wilkins had 50 against the Pistons. And in playoff competition, the performances are even more spectacular.



Jordan: A great Player having a Great Game.

Photo by Steve Carter

How do the Celtics match the super player in the playoffs? Several attempts, and no guarantees--the talents are that superlative. I'm reminded of Bill Walton's practice cry: "Victory!" That is, first, you win the game, and do what's necessary to win. On the road, you expect increased enthusiasm; we must match that initial intensity, and go on to play our game. And regardless of the great game, whether it was King scoring 44 against us two years ago, or Jordan's 49 or 63 those performances are one game. You go on to the next game. They are a challenge to a team's concentration and perseverance.

Danny Ainge embodied these qualities early in the playoffs. His full court game was phenomenal; defensively, offensively, rebounding, moving to open areas, creating and retrieving loose balls. Ainge scored 24 points in Jordan's record-breaker. He hit a 3-pointer, he tied the game at the end of regulation, he played eyeball to eyeball with Michael. His contributions often go unnoticed, but not by the coaches. This type of effort helps to neutralize the super athlete, the one-time performance. You get 24 here, you benefit from Bill Walton's rebounding and defense, or Robert filling the lane.

You anticipate they'll add up into (simply) more points than your opponent.

Michael Jordan's game reminded me of Larry Bird's 60-point game in New Orleans. Atlanta that night was knocking him down, and Larry was scoring anyway. We have Dennis Johnson and Kevin McHale working extremely hard on defense in these playoffs. They are super players in our context; and on defense, superior effort often is overlooked. I told Dennis after Jordan scored those points: No one can guard a player of that stature one-on-one. Don't let that steal your mind.

Retirement? I'm responding here to a few stories which came out in the Boston dailies around ten days ago---that I am thinking of retiring from coaching.

I am not thinking of retiring, there is no thought of retiring in my mind. I would like to continue coaching the basketball team for at least another four years. And that's a conservative number.

The story reporting my leaving the Celtics was totally ridiculous: it was based on an absence of facts and I fail to comprehend the reason for putting such a story in the newspaper.

I want to continue coaching because I enjoy the profession. I've accomplished the goals I have set out for myself: the championship, successful teams, seeing the guys do well.

I'm not thinking of retiring.





M. L. Carr

The Celtics Did What They Had To Do

The Celtics pulled their old tricks out of the bag in the opening round playoff series against the Chicago Bulls. Everybody's talking about all the points that Michael Jordan scored, but all the Celtics wanted to do was get rid of the Bulls as soon as possible.

I was in North Carolina recently, where Michael and I are from, and

people were asking me, "What does Michael feel about getting all those points?" I told them, "I don't know. You'll have to ask him when you see him -- he's on vacation now."

There's no individual glory in stats. The Celtics did what they had to do. They didn't want to take the series to four or five games. They took care of business and eliminated the Bulls as quickly as possible. To



Bill Walton: "Big Hungry"

get to where they want to be, the Celtics have to take care of business.

This is as hungry and one of the most talented teams I've seen. You have a guy like Bill Walton, who wants to get back to 1977, when he was on the Portland team that won the NBA championship. Then there's a guy like Jerry Sichting, who has never been part of a winning team before. The other veterans on the team know how it feels to be on a championship team and want to experience that again.

This team is on a mission, and won't take any team they might face in the playoffs lightly.

Getting back to Michael Jordan, there's no doubt he made an impression on the Celtics. We all knew he was a bonafide player -- one of the guys who is capable of scoring a lot of points and taking over a game.

But all you want to do is finish one point ahead of the other team -- that's the way the Celtics approach the game.

Someone asked me if Michael

getting all those points showed a weakness in the Celtics defense. The answer to that is no. What you saw was a team going continually to its firepower. Guys in the NBA are too good to play one-on-one -- you have to have support defense to stop anyone.

But when a guy is scoring so much, the other four guys on the floor might not be totally involved in the offense -- they may not run as hard. When I played, I used to guard guys away from the ball in those situations and I'd tell them, "Hey, he doesn't pass you the ball. Maybe he doesn't like you." That's the game you play -- it's a mind game. It's done much more now at playoff time.

One advantage the Celtics had over the Bulls is Chicago didn't have much playoff experience. Boston has been in the thick of it before -- it's a veteran team that knows what it takes to win. The Celtics weren't going to get caught taking teams lightly.

We're playing Atlanta now. The Hawks are a young, energetic team and they can exploit certain situations. The Hawks are a scary team -- they're very big and very quick. They have a lot of things that can offset bad shooting nights. What the Celtics have to do is break their confidence early and get on them right away, the Hawks don't have a lot of playoff experience, and that's important.

Without that experience, you don't know how to control certain situations. You want to have a higher level of concentration, but you also want to stay as close to normal as possible. I used to get real edgy during the playoffs -- I was more sensitive off the court. Any little thing can affect you in a negative way -- the only thing you're concentrating on is winning that championship. The things people say, too many phone calls used to bother me. Many times, I wouldn't take any phone calls at my house. The playoffs were a once-in-a-lifetime thing, so I wanted to give it my best shot.

What about the Lakers? I'm not so sure they're going to get to the finals. They're playing well, but they might get tripped up. No, the players don't necessarily want to face the Lakers in the championship series. All you want is the championship -- you don't care how you get it -- You want the ring. If it's LA you beat in the finals, fine. You want to get through every team you play -- you don't care if you play Indiana State. You just want the ring.

There shouldn't be any joy in playing the Lakers -- I don't buy that. The bottom line is they want the championship.

When the Lakers were eliminated from the playoffs in 1981 and we went on to win the championship, people asked me if it was anti-climactic when the Lakers lost. They don't put on the championship ring that it was anti-climactic or that you're 1986 champions, but... There are no buts on a championship ring.

How Do The Celtics Cope — Off The Floor?

Really, there are spare minutes during the playoff season. The games are more intense, each possession actually is crucial, and the stakes are high (emotional and quasi-religious for fans, financial for the athletes).

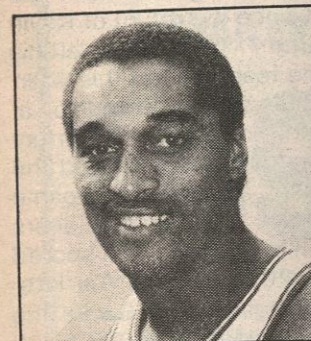
Pressures naturally are increasing for the players within the present two months. The question was posed to several of the players, coaches, and trainers: How do you cope with the added stress of playoff competition? Are there special activities? Change in routine?

Following are several responses in the informal survey.



Jerry Sichting

Jerry Sichting: I've been trying to relax more, play with my kids. I don't try to keep the games always on my mind, I don't think about them all the time. But I do watch games on TV; our job is to be mentally prepared, so I'm thinking about it, trying to pick up tips.



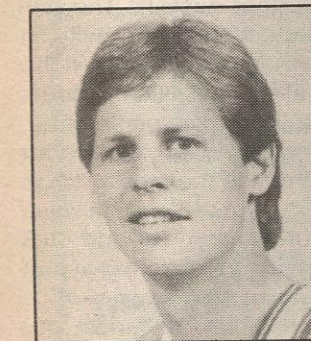
Dennis Johnson

Dennis Johnson: I try and act normal, try not to change anything. Consciously stay happy, and don't deviate from a routine which works. Listen to music, things like that. Quite naturally, at this time of year, your concentration level picks up.



K.C. Jones

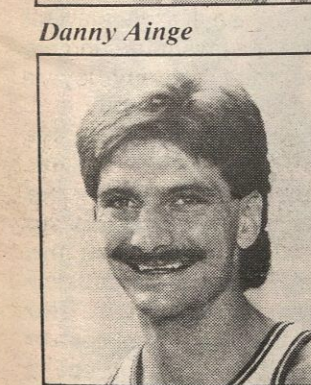
K.C. Jones: I just prepare harder at this time of the year. I don't think much about balancing my time. I'll watch more games on TV, to try and pick up something, or go out to dinner.



Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge: On nice days, but not on game days, I'll go out and play golf with friends. I'll also take my kids to the park, and play some baseball with them. We also like to see movies.

I try for a happy medium. The ideal is not to think basketball 24 hours a day. I don't think you can focus on anything for that long. Yet, relaxing shouldn't be the overriding aim. Because generally most of my thoughts are geared toward basketball.



Greg Kite

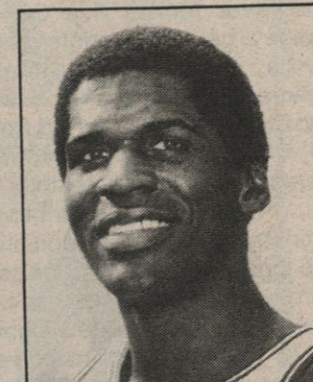
Greg Kite: I don't think about this time of the year as pressure. I try and think of it as fun -- you're playing for the championship, after all and that's what it's about. But I always ask myself questions at this time of year. Where does "pressure" come from? Is it internal? I just enjoy it as a challenge.

Bill Walton: Pressure? I like being awake at night thinking of the pressure of the playoffs.



Bill Walton

Robert Parish: I try and relax every time I get, especially with my family. But there are other moments, for sure. Much of the time I prefer to be downstairs in my den and my lower living room. With music, particularly jazz. Recently, listening to Earl Kluge, Grover Washington, George Howard, John Klemmer.



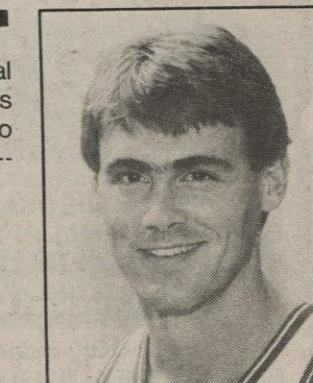
Robert Parish

Larry Bird: It alternates; the games are fun but I'll want to get rest when they're done and when practices are through. Work on my yard, maybe play a little golf. I also enjoy spending time with friends.



Larry Bird

Rick Carlisle: I try and sustain a normal routine. The best thing about the playoffs is there's more time at home. Finding things to do isn't terribly hard to do. I play my piano -- contemporary music, and the blues.



Rick Carlisle

Ray Melchiorre: It's funny, without jinxing us or anything, I believe the harder I work the luckier we get. This is a high energy time, almost like a second training camp. I try and do extra; if there's an extra psychological or physical boost needed, I want to be prepared (to do all facets of my job).

Otherwise, I'm always looking forward to good motorcycle riding weather.



Ray Melchiorre

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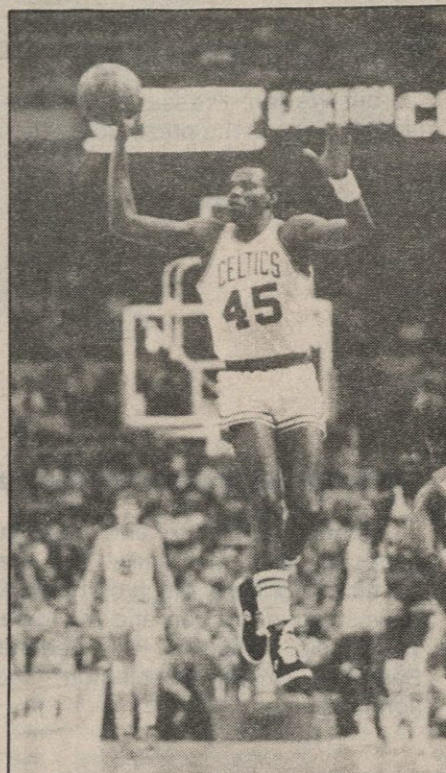
BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

David Thirdkill: Subdues Personal Goals

It was late in the season, and K.C. Jones, Coach of the Celtics, is conducting a light practice session. Boston's recent run of games has been frequent, demanding; after a home game against the Knicks the previous evening, the Celtics must travel to Philadelphia for a game the following afternoon. They would fly back to Boston that night, and then head back out on the road for back-to-back games in Milwaukee and East Rutherford, New Jersey, to play the New Jersey Nets. David Thirdkill, the team's reserve (6-7, 215) forward, pushes himself, however lenient this day's session might be. He sprints through the drills. He hustles in the shooting games (His jump shot is surprisingly soft and accurate, lofted from the end of a style turning his sinewy body into a jackknife, sharply folded).

"I would ideally want to be able to clinch the regular season title as early as possible," Coach Jones has said previously that week. "Larry Bird needs rest. So does Dennis Johnson." These frontline players gladly welcome this respite; for Thirdkill, the situation is different.

Every practice is an opportunity to remain ready. There, the



Thirdkill: Accepts his role.

comradery of the team (Rookie Sam Vincent has been Thirdkill's fellow man of bench circumstance this year) exists in private an animated col-

lusion. In workouts, Thirdkill has uniquely been able to maintain a level approaching game readiness; it's a significant feat achieved in 44 games and 325 minutes total playing time.

Throughout an NBA career of enforced inactivity, David Thirdkill has continued to upgrade his game. He came into the league as a surprise 1st round draft choice, the 15th player taken in the 1982-83 draft. His collegiate career had ended on a high note as his Bradley team won the 1982-83 NIT. His wheel of success kept turning: the NIT, 1st-round draft choice, and immediate playing time as a rookie under John MacLeod in Phoenix. But twenty games into his rookie year, the wheel slowed down perceptibly. Thirdkill was benched and began an NBA sojourn: Boston is the 4-year veteran's fifth team.

Dennis Johnson was a teammate of Thirdkill's in Phoenix, and recalls being impressed with the young player. "David came into camp and there were high expectations. He was a 1st-round draft choice, and at first he was nervous. But he played well. What I remember was he was able to learn MacLeod's offense, which was about 70-80 plays, considering all the options.

"Sometimes players are thrown into changing situations, and they don't get playing time, though. It can have nothing to do with their talent."

"I don't want to look back on anything," says David Thirdkill now. My philosophy is to go out every day, play hard, just bust. Be concerned with what's happening now. You come in here to work.

"You have to do the job yourself. I feel I can be the best in whatever role my job becomes. I'll be prepared for the worst. In life, you have no guarantee. I mean, you have no guarantee you'll be born, but you're guaranteed you'll die." Thirdkill states this—he's wearing a Boston College baseball cap, T-shirt, blue jeans, sneakers. He speaks in a low, urgent, self-possessed voice. He says plenty but won't allow much for publication.

"I always thought David could play defense and rebound before he came here," says Robert Parish. "But here, his whole game has developed. He can score now because he'll look for his shot. Also, he's helped by the competitive practices. They make his talent sharper. I think he is able to accept sitting, because he knows there's great talent in front of him. Your have to showcase your talent in limited situations, in his role. But he knows he's got the talent. And I think he has great pride."

The paradox of the professional athlete: to reach the peak level of competition, he must subdue personal goals. To be successful on the team level, the athlete must be content to contribute in any way, even if

the achievement isn't counted by a statistic. It's an intersection of application, skill, and concentration.

"I consider myself an all-around (player)," says Thirdkill slowly, hesitantly; he is reluctant to talk about himself. "I'm a pretty good defensive player and offensive player. I work on my weaknesses; I'm a better rebounder now and I'm a more confident player."

"I'm content to contribute. We've got a lot of guys who can do things very well. Some nights I'll go out and be defensive minded. I believe I could score if needed, too." Thirdkill's travels in professional basketball reached a moment in the darkness before sunrise this year; cut before the season by the Celtics, he was returned to the team roster after the unfortunate Sly Williams was cut by the team. And though his time has been limited since the return of Kevin McHale, March 7, Thirdkill has left his imprint on the team's effort this year. He slam-dunked vs. Philadelphia, January 26th, to key an important game-winning rally; he extended the team defense and running game when the Celtics defeated the Lakers at The Forum in February. He scored a career high 20 against the Warriors, and sparked against the Bucks the last week of the season.

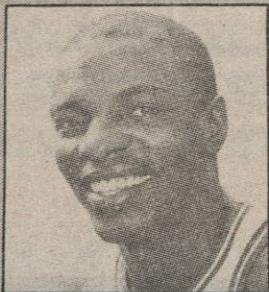
David Thirdkill's road has done what effective paths must—connect. He was an all-city player at Soledad High School in St. Louis, and a 3rd Team All-American at Southern Idaho. "The first year out of high school was tough for me in Idaho. I was ready to leave, but my mother warned me then, 'There are things you have to do in life, you won't like. But you can't allow those to stop you from where you want to go.'" He is the youngest of nine children of parents married for 39 years. This background further explains Thirdkill. He views matters with longevity in mind. "Even when I was drafted in the 1st round, after the NBA Scouts Chicago camp, I kept it in perspective.

"There are many 1st round draft choices and there is the money to go along with it. But I was always thinking about playing beyond 2-3 years. A lot of the guys drafted in that 1st round are out of the league, now."

"David could be a terror out there, I believe," says Jones. "But there is limited playing time on this team. I respect the way he stays prepared, though."

The road of David Thirdkill. He motivates himself for development, often in the privacy-in practice, or the near silence of game's closing moments. What develops from the struggle to stay prepared is nothing less than greater inner strength. The quality which drives the extra hours in practice, the patience to accept a role, the self-discipline earning him a position with the game's best.

Self Portrait



David Thirdkill

BIRTHDATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: April 12, 1960 in St. Louis, Missouri

OCCUPATION: Forward, The Boston Celtics

FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER: Rambo II

FAVORITE ANIMAL IN THE ZOO: Tiger

IF I COULD BUY ANY CAR, I'D BUY A: Rolls Royce

FAVORITE ALL-TIME TV SHOW: Good Times

FAVORITE TV PROGRAMS (PRESENT): Cosby and Miami Vice

FAVORITE BOOK: Sidney Sheldon's *The Master of the Game*

FAVORITE MEALS: Twenty ounce porterhouse steak; lobster; shrimp and a potato

FIVE GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: Appolonia; Michelle;

Ashley, my daughter; Robert Parish; and Dennis Johnson.

FAVORITE NBA CITY: Los Angeles, The City of Angels; Hollywood

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Red Lobster

FAVORITE COMEDIAN: Eddie Murphy

FAVORITE BOARD GAME: Chess

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION, I'D BE A: Farmer

HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME: David the Raven

FAVORITE DRINK: Orange Juice

OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: Old pair of shoes

I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: My daughter

IF I COULD CHANGE PLACES WITH AN ACTOR, I'D CHOOSE:

Lou Gossett

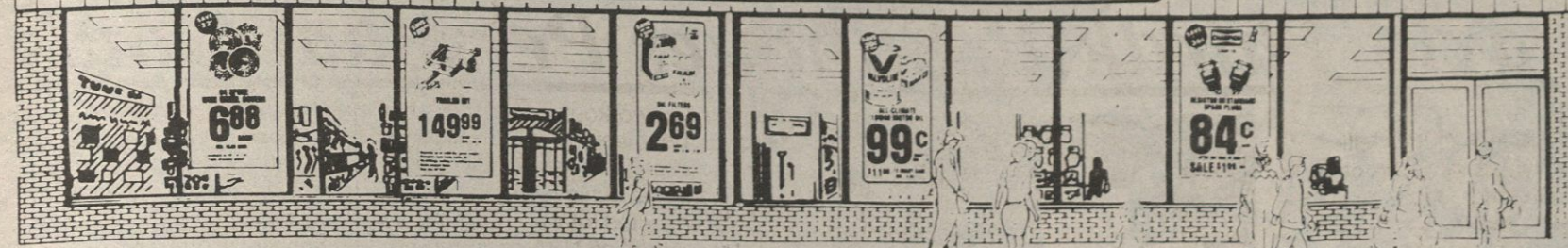
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I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Fly a plane.

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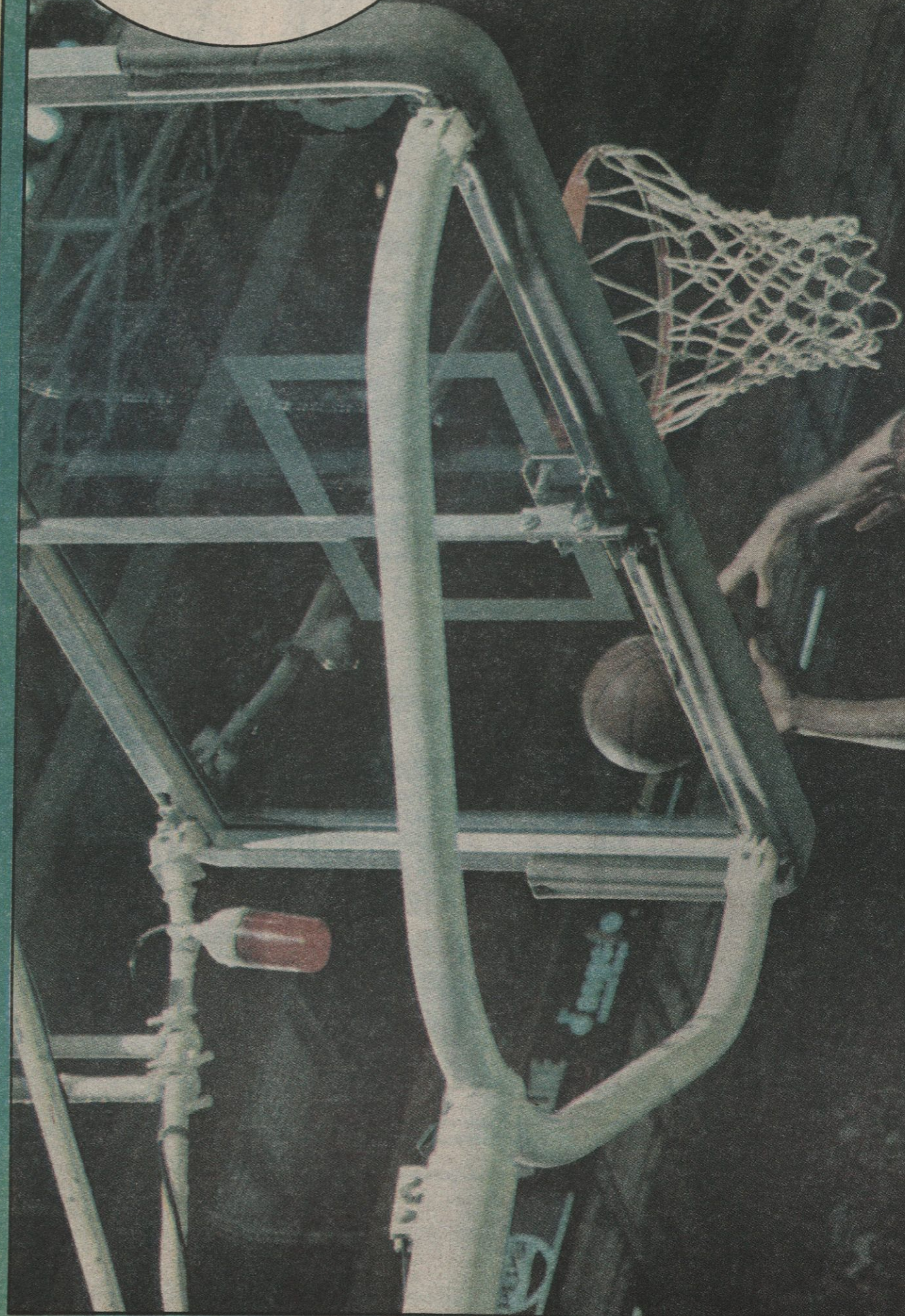
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DAVID THIRDKILL

Celtics Confidential

by Bob Schron

Media Attention. With the playoffs begun, media attention has again intensified around the Boston Garden. The Celtics were the subject of feature articles in the Sunday *New York Times* (by Sam Goldaper), *USA Today* (by David DuPree), and *The Sporting News* (by Paul Attner)...**Pat O'Brien**, a feature editor at CBS television, was at practice interviewing **Danny Ainge** for a segment of the network's "At the Half". Ratings for the league have increased on both the network and the national (WTBS) cable levels. CBS posted its best ratings in seven years, up 11% over a year ago. WTBS's numbers improved by 10% over 1984-85. The seemingly annual criticism of analyst **Bill Russell** has begun. It is intriguing how the words of critics, however well thought out or not, are effective.

Often, decisions are made because network executives are over-sensitive to gossip words of TV critics. Russell is analytical, objective, thorough; if his analyses are not loud, verbose, or sensational, this should not be construed as bad broadcasting. It does not take verbal diarrhea to get a point across. Russell's words are concise, penetrating, quiet. But, then, so is much of what constitutes success on the floor.

Which is what the analyst is supposed to be doing, isn't it? That is, describing what it is which is taking place on the floor. Not giving nicknames. Not loudly criticizing players, coaches, referees. But, the TV medium is pictures, color, ego. Because Russell's style fits in with an



Russell: Gets his annual dose.

educational approach to the game, likely this makes it a mis-fit for the prevailing values of the television vehicle and decision-makers.

Unfortunately potitics and jealousy often color objectivity. Russell enjoys excellent relationships with many of the players in the league, many of them black. Many writers do not. Also, Russell is not the easiest interview in the league or its environs; this does not enhance his position with writers or critics.

Bruce Hurst, Red Sox Pitcher, was a recent visitor at C's practice... Hurst, teammate **Roger Clemens**, and Patriots Linebacker and Defensive player of the Year **Andre Tippett** were at the Celtics opening playoff game, April 17... **Ron Kittle**, Chicago White Sox left fielder and Designated hitter, is a serious fan of fellow Hoosier, **Larry Bird**. "Larry

was one of those players you heard about, even in high school. I remember when he was at Indiana State, and they went out to play Butler, who had a great player. Butler's player had 24, and Bird had 49. And he sat out at the end of the game." A familiar tale... Bird earned a \$30,000 bonus from Spalding for winning the Free Throw Championship on the final day of the season... **Ainge** is a Playoff commentator every morning in Boston on WBZ radio. He joins **Sam Vincent** (WMRE), **Bill Walton** (WBOS-FM), and **K.C. Jones** (WRKO) as Celtics analysts during the post-season.

Early playoff injuries included **Larry Bird** (dislocated pinky finger), **Kevin McHale** (cut eye), **Scott Wedman** (foot injury), and **Danny Ainge** (neck injury)... Playoffs are considerably more focused, a time when rival teams know each other thoroughly. C's, for 1st time all year, watched films daily during Chicago series... According to **Jimmy Rodgers**, Assistant Coach, teams going a long distance in the playoffs are "strong going one through eight. One player will not usually beat you." The next afternoon, **Michael Jordan** exploded for 63 in a narrow (135-131) C's win... Rodgers was mentioned as a possible GM/Coach candidate in Oakland and Cleveland...

Moe Harrington, usher at the Garden and a classy gentleman, had open heart surgery recently... Jordan's recovery from broken foot prompted **Charley Pierce**, Herald columnist to state, "I wish I had his orthopedist!"... WRKO's Round Table sportstalk show, featuring **Pierce**, **Bob Ryan** of the Globe, **Bill O'Connell** of Channel 56 and originated by *Celtics Pride* and RKO's **Glenn Ordway**, is some of the best sport journalism to hit the Hub...

Rick Robey, former Celtic Center and a key member of C's 1981 entry, is waiting for the end of the playoffs to begin seeking out a new playing locale. His stay in Phoenix (Robey was traded from the Celtics to the Phoenix Suns for Dennis Johnson in June of 1983) was bedeviled; an injury, a conflict of styles between his physical approach and Phoenix's new running tempo, a final falling out. "I finally got into the best shape of my career last summer, but, I never had a real opportunity this year," said Robey from Phoenix last week.

Johnny Most, The Voice, will be inducted into the Brooklyn College Hall of Fame, May 16... That is, one week after **Tommy Heinsohn** is inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield... **Jimmy Meyers**, former Boston and New York sportscaster, was in Boston recently attending a game... **Red Auerbach**

worked with Bob Neal on WTBS in that network's coverage of the Denver-Portland playoff game, April 18th... **Tom Sanders** accompanied Auerbach to a recent playoff practice.

Nancy Parish made her jazz singing debut at the Manchester (New Hampshire) Arts Center, April 12th. Except for Sam Vincent, who had a previous commitment, the entire Celtics team and escorts attended, and many of the players ascended to the stage to accompany the singer Parish...

Ryan caught the usually precise stat crew (**Hal Dutton**, **George Hecht**, **Stan Muir**, **Dave Gately**, **Steve Nazaro**, **Miriam Strauss**, **Rich Steckloff** and company) in an error in Game 1 of the Chicago series. The stats revealed Bird had missed three free throws. A review of the running sheets and Ryan's VCR-like hoop memory said only two. The latter was correct...

Long-time, close friend of K.C. Jones, **Arturo Delmonico**, classical violinist, played the National Anthem before the second game of the playoff series against Chicago, April 20... **Dave Cowens** hosted a number of athletes in an autograph session as a fund-raiser for the New England Museum of Sports, April 19th... **Rick Carlisle's** currently reading Red Auerbach's (with Joe Fitzgerald) *Auerbach: On and Off the Court*... **Carlisle** and **Jerry Sichting** made an appearance at Chameleon's... **Bill Walton** is participating with Harvey's Audio and WBOS-FM in a contest giveaway: the winner receives a five-day holiday in San Diego, and spends a day with the Walton family...

The Celtics, after their 3-0 series victory over Chicago, are now 53-17 in playoff series... According to Carlisle, three qualities define the superstar: they want the ball when their team needs a basket. They're not afraid of failure... **Bird** and **Michael Jordan**, for example, are like that, and finally, they play with enormous pride. "Larry's like that. He hates to lose so he just avoids it."

The Lakers have begun rating their players with a new statistic, the "efficiency rating", a computerized number which combines several offensive and defensive categories... **Marty Blake**, Super Scout, claimed on WTBS that if the draft were held in late April, **Brad Daugherty** of North Carolina would be the first player selected... That cable network featured Red Auerbach commenting on some of his players, including **Bob Cousy**, **John Havlicek**, and **Bill Russell**.

Congratulation to Jeff and Sarah Twiss on the birth of Cameron Twiss, 6 pounds, 12 ounces; their son was born on Saturday night, April 19th!

April 17, at Boston
Celtics 123, Bulls 104

In a harbinger of what was to come in the opening round series between the Celtics and Bulls, Michael Jordan tossed in 49 points. However, it takes more than one Jordan to beat the C's, who won it easy fashion.

Jordan scored 30 of his points in the first half. Most of the time the North Carolina product was being checked by Dennis Johnson, probably the most prodigious defensive guard in the NBA.

"I guess I could say I'm lucky," Johnson said. "He could go out and hit 52 next time."

Not to be outdone, Johnson answered with 16 of his 26 points in the third quarter, during which the Celtics outscored the Bulls, 33-25, to break open what had been a close game.

Boston received a balanced attack, with four of its five players hitting double-figures. Larry Bird led the way with 30 points, Kevin McHale had 27 and Robert Parish chipped in 23.

Besides Jordan, the only other Bull who could generate any real semblance of offense was Orlando Woolridge. He scored 26 for the Bulls, who barely nosed out the Cleveland Cavaliers for the final Eastern Conference playoff berth.

"They really can't consider this a one-man team, even though I had a good night," said Jordan, who made 18 of 36 shots from the floor. "If they think that, they're making a big mistake."

April 20, at Boston
Celtics 135, Chicago 131

Dennis Johnson had said Jordan might come out and get 52 next time. Well, he was wrong.

Jordan fired away from all over the Boston Garden floor, and when it was all over, he had scored the nets

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW



Jordan: Would give points back.

for 63 points, an NBA record. Jordan surpassed the old NBA standard, which was held by former Lakers great Elgin Baylor. Ironically, Baylor set that record against the Celtics on April 14, 1962.

Nevertheless, the Celtics eeked out a double-overtime victory to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

"They can have the records as

long as we win," Celtics guard Jerry Sichting said.

Said Jordan: "I'm not worried about the points. I'd give all the points back if we could win."

But it was the Celtics who were the winners. Sichting helped out considerably, scoring two of Boston's five baskets in the second overtime. Jordan has hit two free throws with no time left on the clock to deadlock the game at 116-116, necessitating the first extra session.

Bulls center Dave Corzine followed up a missed shot, giving the Bulls a 125-123 lead later in the first OT. But a driving layup by Danny Ainge with 12 seconds remaining pulled the Celtics into a tie. Nine seconds later, Jordan could have put the Bulls ahead again, but his 15-foot jumper was too long.

In the second OT, Larry Bird came out and fired in a bomb, making the score 127-125, Boston, with 3:56 showing on the clock. Following a bank shot by Orlando Woolridge, Ainge and Sichting connected on jumpers and the Celtics were up, 131-127.

Jordan proceeded to tie the score with two baskets, but missed a foul-line jumper with 30 seconds remaining. That would have tied the game at 133-133.

"It felt good," Jordan said. "I was wide open and I had a good shot." Jordan had plenty of good shots, but Boston prevailed in the end.

April 22, at Chicago
Celtics 122, Chicago 104

Well, maybe Michael Jordan is human after all.

The Celtics finally shut Jordan down, limiting him to 19 points, and Kevin McHale scored 31, as the Celtics eliminated the Bulls in three straight games. Jordan fouled out with 5:24 left in the game and received a standing ovation from the sellout crowd at Chicago Stadium.

Boston never trailed in the contest, racing out to a 66-52 halftime lead. The Bulls had trimmed the deficit a bit to 72-61, but the Celtics then embarked on a 15-0 spurt, which put the game in their back pocket.

Danny Ainge had 20 points for Boston. Larry Bird had 19, Dennis Johnson 16 and Robert Parish 15. John Paxson had 23 points to lead Chicago and Dave Corzine had 22.

Fourteen of Jordan's points came in the first quarter, but picked up his fourth personal foul with 4:21 to go in the half, with the Celtics leading, 51-41.

April 27, at Boston
Celtics 103, Atlanta 91

Seeing they had beaten the Hawks in all six regular season games in 1985-86, the Celtics thought it best not to deviate from that norm in the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. So they didn't.

A 14-0 spurt, triggered by Kevin McHale, did the Hawks in. Six of McHale's game high 24 points came during that stretch, which saw a nine-point Boston edge swell to 23.

"He had a terrific game," Celtic Coach K.C. Jones said of McHale. He got the boards. He blocked shots. He's been super."

McHale was just as good on the defensive end. McHale, with help from the Celtics team defense, limited Wilkins to just four field goals in 15 attempts and 13 points. Remember, this is the same guy who led the NBA in scoring this past season.

"Kevin did a good job of sticking with him," Jones said. "We need someone else in the area in case Wilkins puts the ball on the floor. That player could come over and pick him up."

The Celtics picked up their 34th straight win at the Garden with this victory over Atlanta.

1986 NBA PLAYOFF POOL

Best Record in NBA:	\$ 50,000
Best Record in Conference, \$50,000 each:	100,000
2nd Best Record in Conference, \$40,000 each:	80,000
3rd Best Record in Conference, \$30,000 each:	60,000
4th Best Record in Conference, \$25,000 each:	50,000
5th Best Record in Conference, \$20,000 each:	40,000
6th Best Record in Conference, \$15,000 each:	30,000
Teams Participating in the First Round,	
\$25,000 each:	400,000
Teams Participating in the Conference Semifinals,	
\$30,000 each:	240,000
Teams Participating in the Conference Finals,	
\$50,000 each:	200,000
Winning Team, NBA Finals:	300,000
Losing Team, NBA Finals:	200,000
Total Playoff Pool	\$1,750,000

Celtics 123, Bulls 104
CHICAGO

Woolridge 11-20 3-3 25, Oakley 5-9 3-3 13, Corzine 3-5 0-6, Jordan 18-36 13-15 49, Macy 2-4 0-5, Green 1-5 0-2, Banks 2-3 0-4, Paxson 0-2 0-0 0, Gervin 0-1 0-0 0, Smrek 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 42-86 19-23 104.

BOSTON

McHale 10-11 7-7 27, Bird 9-13 10-13 30, Parish 6-10 11-13 23, Johnson 11-24 4-6 26, Ainge 4-8 0-9, Walton 0-1 0-0 0, Sichting 4-5 0-8, Carlisle 0-1 0-0 0, Wedman 1-3 0-0 0, Thirskill 0-0 0-0 0, Kite 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 44-74 32-39 123.

Chicago 35 24 25 20-104
Boston 27 34 33 29-123

Three-point goals—Macy, Ainge, Bird 2. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 35 (Oakley 10), Boston 50 (McHale, Parish 10). Assists—Chicago 17 (Macy, Paxson 4), Boston 29 (Bird 8). Total fouls—Chicago 20, Boston 21. A—14,890.

Celtics 135, Bulls 131 (2 OT)
CHICAGO

Woolridge 9-27 6-8 24, Oakley 3-5 4-6 10, Corzine 4-7 0-8, Jordan 22-41 19-21 63, Macy 3-4 1-7, Green 2-8 3-4 7, Banks 3-7 2-4 8, Smrek 0-0 0-0 0, Gervin 0-1 0-0 0, Paxson 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 47-102 37-46 131.

BOSTON

McHale 10-22 7-8 27, Bird 14-27 6-7 36, Parish 4-11 5-6 13, Johnson 4-14 7-9 15, Ainge 8-13 7-9 24, Walton 4-8 2-2 10, Sichting 4-5 0-1 8, Wedman 1-3 0-0 2, Carlisle 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 49-103 34-42 135.

Chicago 33 25 33 25 9-131
Boston 25 28 37 28 9-135

Three-point goals—Bird 2, Ainge. Fouled out—Walton, Johnson. Rebounds—Chicago 56 (Oakley 14), Boston 70 (Walton, McHale 15). Assists—Chicago 15 (Jordan 6), Boston 31 (Johnson, Bird 8). Total fouls—Chicago 34, Boston 32. Technicals—Chicago illegal defense, Ainge. A—14,890.

Celtics 122, Bulls 104
BOSTON

Bird 5-13 9-10 19, McHale 11-15 9-10 31, Parish 6-11 3-4 15, Ainge 7-13 6-6 20, Johnson 6-12 4-5 16, Walton 4-9 2-2 10, Sichting 0-4 1-1 1, Wedman 2-4 0-0 4, Thirskill 1-10 0-2, Carlisle 1-1 0-0 2, Kite 0-1 0-0 0, Vincent 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 43-86 36-40 122.

CHICAGO

Woolridge 5-15 4-4 14, Oakley 3-7 1-4 7, Corzine 9-17 4-4 22, Macy 0-6 0-0 0, Jordan 8-18 2-3 19, Green 3-7 3-6 8, Banks 5-8 0-0 10, Paxson 6-10 11-15 23, Oldham 0-1 0-0 0, Smrek 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-89 25-36 104.

Boston 33 33 33 22-122
Chicago 23 29 19 33-104

Three-point goal—Jordan. Fouled out—Jordan. Rebounds—Boston 51 (Walton 9), Chicago 57 (Corzine 15). Assists—Boston 31 (Bird 8), Chicago 19 (Jordan 9). Total fouls—Boston 28, Chicago 28. Technicals—Jordan, Chicago Coach Albeck 2 (ejected). A—18,968.

Celtics 103, Hawks 91
ATLANTA

Wilkins 4-15 5-5 13, Willis 9-17 0-1 18, Rollins 5-7 1-2 11, Wittman 5-14 0-0 10, Rivers 2-11 2-2 6, Livingston 3-4 2-3 8, Webb 2-10 0-2 4, Davis 1-4 0-0 2, Koncak 2-4 1-2 5, Battle 2-5 0-4, Hastings 4-5 1-3 10. Totals 39-96 12-20 91.

BOSTON

McHale 9-14 6-8 24, Bird 8-17 0-0 16, Parish 7-12 2-2 16, Johnson 7-13 2-2 16, Ainge 8-10 0-0 17, Sichting 0-2 0-0 0, Walton 3-7 0-6, Wedman 1-7 0-2, Carlisle 0-2 3-4 3, Kite 0-0 1-2 1, Vincent 1-2 0-0 2, Thirskill 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 44-87 14-18 103.

Atlanta 23 23 17 28-91
Boston 30 22 34 17-103

Three-point goals—Hastings, Ainge. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 45 (Willis 8), Boston 51 (Bird 12). Assists—Atlanta 18 (Webb 5), Boston 33 (Johnson 14). Total fouls—Atlanta 21, Boston 19. A—14,890.



Eddie Gilooley

Because he was such a talented scorer in college everyone looked at Ainge as an automatic 20 point a game player. No one will average 20 points a game taking 10 or less shots as Ainge does. It's never happened and never will.

As a result of his collegiate reputation, some fans, failing to rationalize the Celtics offensive concept, felt Ainge has not lived up to his potential. The Celtics system, not Ainge, is the reason he doesn't average big numbers.

In past eras, the Celtics offense was geared for points from the guard position. Bob Cousy, Sam Jones and Jo Jo White were given 20 plus shots a game and their season average reflected their role in the offense.

Ainge is a highly charged and aggressive player who gets down on himself when he makes a mistake, which isn't often. He seldom throws the ball away or gets beaten on defense. Not too many players have embarrassed him on defense since he's taken over the starting role with the Celtics.

There were times in the past when K.C. Jones had to calm him after making a miscue but Danny has better control now and is able to

bounce back on his own and get into the flow of the contest.

Even when he had his shooting slump at midseason, Ainge didn't let the rest of his game suffer, he made strong contributions on defense and pushed the ball up court to make the fast break work effectively.

Easily, Ainge has opportunities for eight to 10 more shots a game but he passes them up to get the ball inside. Most often his decision pays off. He doesn't quit either after making the pass. He'll move to set a pick or get in position for a rebound.

Whippet fast, Ainge is used often to double team the opposition's center because his quickness allows him to get back to his own man whenever necessary. He's been most effective in this role against Moses Malone and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

When the Celtics made the decision to trade Gerry Henderson to Seattle and create a starting position for Ainge, it was a move the Celts made with confidence because they knew Danny would grow as a starting guard.

Henderson was talented but didn't possess the overall potential of Ainge, particularly on defense where he is a little more testy and brazen which has initiated negative reaction at times from opposing players and fans.

It's time for Ainge to get the respect he deserves. If for nothing else, he should be appreciated for his unselfishness on the court. Ainge has a unique role on the team laden with scorers and fulfills the role as well as any role player the Celtics have had over the years.

Forget the numbers in the box scores. Ainge is a key player for the Celtics and his teammates appreciate his many contributions. If the Celtics needed his points, K.C. Jones would be quick to change the team offense.

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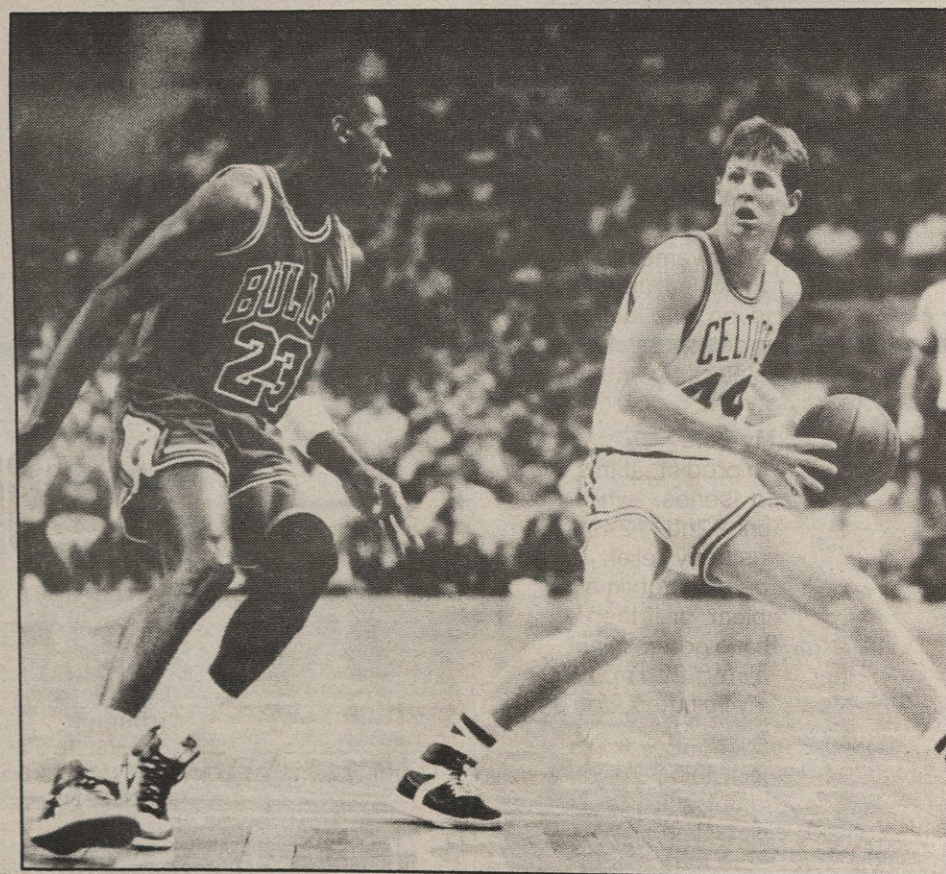
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Danny Ainge: Gets unfair criticism.

Rodney Dangerfield of the Celtics

Danny Ainge is the Rodney Dangerfield of the Celtics. He doesn't get any respect.

Many fans tend to overlook his many contributions, both on offense and defense. One Boston talk show host has been on Danny's case all season--and seasons past, ranting that Ainge is an average player who, at best, is nothing more than a third guard.

Although he's been around a long time and should know the intricacies of basketball much better, the talk show host reacts like some of those statistiscal-guided fans who grade the talents of players by the numbers they see in the box score.

It's unfortunate that Danny doesn't get his due. He's an unselfish player whose box score numbers will never be impressive as long as he's playing on a team that has an awesome offensive front line as the Celtics have possessed since he joined the club.

Ainge knows where the ball belongs and he gets it there. He pushes the ball upcourt and doesn't look at the basket. He looks for his teammates--Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Robert Parish and Bill Walton.

There is no offense designed for Ainge. His offense is freelance. He shoots only to keep the opposition honest. The amazing statistic Ainge has compiled all season is that he's made better than 50 percent of his shots throughout the season.

That in itself is superlative considering he averages less than 10 shots a game--many of them long distance jumpers he's forced to take because the opposition is packing in the middle to keep the ball out of the hands of the front line personnel.

On any other team, Ainge would average 20 points a game. He'd be part of the offense. He'd have plays set for him and teammates setting picks to give him wide open percentage shots.

Unpredictable Time

Rick Carlisle, the Celtics' precise fourth guard, has entered the playoff season on a wave of uncertainty.

Carlisle emerged this season: He averaged 10 minutes a game, shot 49% from the field, and played an error-free type game. His style blended expertly with the Green Team (the Celtics' second team), a unit which complemented the team's starting unit creatively. Carlisle's season highlight was his performance against the Lakers in The Forum, February 16th. He scored 10 points, and he scored important points in that number.

It was a critical contribution for two reasons: it was delivered against the Lakers, and Carlisle's production came when Kevin McHale was injured and the Celtics were fighting a battle of athletic attrition (Danny Ainge was still recovering from an ankle injury and Scott Wedman was fighting back problems).

Carlisle's dilemma, as the playoffs take place, is that post-season teams often use as few as an eight-man rotation. If there is additional support time, it likely will be Carlisle's. But if there was an unpredictability surrounding playing time for the second-year player from Virginia in the regular season, that unpredictability increases now. Carlisle records his thoughts for *Celtics Pride* as the playoffs are underway:

Michael Jordan

The first order of business has to be Michael Jordan. Throughout the first two games of the opening playoff series against the Bulls, we threw adjustments and counter-adjustments at Michael, but he disrupted everything. Michael would do something different; he hurt as other teams cannot. Against L.A., for example, you know their basic position and it's a question of defensive rotation. But whenever he got the ball, he was causing problems.

I played against Michael in college (He played at North Carolina and I was in Virginia). Michael's a much more flamboyant player in the pros--I think if Carolina had run a 1-4 spread offense for him there, however, he would have put large numbers on the board.

But about Michael--he made a statement after he broke the individual playoff record that he would trade all the points back for a victory. I believe him. I think that's true. If you play for Carolina, that's the way you think.

Chicago

Chicago was our first opponent, and already there were some apparent differences between regular season and playoff games. During the regular season, teams aren't as prepared for each other as they are now. Teams will come into town for

one game and be out the next night on a typical road trip. In the post-season, you play in one city for two or three days, as much as a five or seven game series. Now, you're coming into a very calculated situation. Through films, through practices, you're constantly working on what to give up. What to deny.

With the Celtics, there hasn't been that much change. We've approached teams with an attitude of having them stop us. We are adjusting, but as long as we win, we'll stay with what we've done.

We played well enough to win against Chicago, and very well in the final game of that series, despite Jordan, who played some of the greatest games in playoff history. We were big and tall and talented against the Bulls. They were smaller and explosive. We were always working down low. But, we were glad to win the 2nd game of that series, Jordan's 63-point game. We did not want to go to Chicago, 1-1 in games.

The Green Team

There is a contradictory nature somewhat on this team. Everybody wants to play, but as a depth player, you're satisfied with what time you get, and use it to blend in with the team. You do what's expected and play as well as you can. The Green Team this year is different than the bench of last year. M.L. Carr, Cedric Maxwell, and Quinn Buckner were established veterans and they personified the bench. We've developed a different identity as the year's progressed. It took time--there were new guys and it took awhile for there to be a meeting of personalities. Earlier we were more serious, there was an uncertainty about playing time. Later, I think everybody on the bench saw substantial time at one time or another during the year.

And the Green Team is different than the starting team. We're more conscious of ball movement because we don't have the talent the starters do. We depend on one another to help each other get shots. The starters are more established and the foe sees different styles.

My Role

It's difficult to predict, at this time. In the Chicago series, which we wrapped up, April 22nd, 124-103 in Chicago, it was strictly relief. As the 9th player, I expect I'll get time if foul trouble is a problem, or if there is an injury. I usually have gotten minutes in the second quarter; if I'm playing well, I'd hope my minutes would increase.

But then again, this is the playoff situation. Veterans usually get most of the playing time. What is necessary from the bench is to keep your head in the game and be prepared.

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'Because You Deserve a Perfect Fit'

Greg Kite Gets Physical Emphatically

In a pair of late season games, one of the final playoff games of the Chicago Bulls series, reserve center Greg Kite was ejected from each contest as he played his physical styled game. Ironically, both games were officiated by Lee Jones (the first with Jake O'Donnell, the second with Eddie Rush). Although in each instance there were apparently legitimate reasons for Kite's ejections, contexts should be considered also.

First, Kite is a physical player, a player descended directly from the Bob Brannum/Jim Loscutoff model. His role and posture is to ensure the Celtics are represented when the game becomes aggressive and physical. For example, Coach K.C. Jones substituted Greg for one minute when the Pistons were in April 2nd. His role: block edgy Bill Laimbeer—hard (as Laimbeer was doing to Bill Walton and Robert Parish). Kite drew this 3rd quarter foul, delivered the team message to Laimbeer, and returned to the bench.

The role of a backup—3rd string, behind Parish and Walton—is ill-favored. Fans and media don't



Greg Kite: Pays his dues.

respect it; players, despite the lucrativeness of the profession, grapple when they play 2nd and 3rd string during garbage time. And referees similarly do not officiate the same for Robert Parish as they do for Greg Kite. Rookies fall roughly into this category. First-year players, even Larry Bird, must pay some dues before they receive the benefit of calls, seemingly. Backups may never receive the calls, seemingly.

Kite's first ejection came April 8th in Milwaukee. After being assessed with three early fouls (the Green Team, including Kite started this game), Kite angrily threw the ball in Lee Jones's direction. He was immediately tossed out.

In the final playoff game against the Bulls, April 22nd, Kite aggressively charged through a pick on the baseline and knocked Chicago guard John Paxson down, and over the baseline. He again was ordered to leave.

Kite at first declined to comment about the incidents. Any statement about officiating is subject to fine by the National Basketball Association.

K.C. Jones continues to think

very highly of Kite, however.

"He's done the job, this year, that's why," stated K.C. Jones after the Celtics' practice, April 26. "Not only did he play very well in an important game in Oakland (Kite had 9 rebounds and played 31 strong minutes against Larry Smith), he has supported the starters effectively off the bench."

"He reacted in Milwaukee, that's all. There were dubious calls against him early, and he just became tired of it. I don't fault him."

Kite, a soft-spoken intelligent man, shook his head slowly and joked and talked around the incidents, not without self-reproach. He has remained dedicated to developing his game, at the highest level of basketball competition.

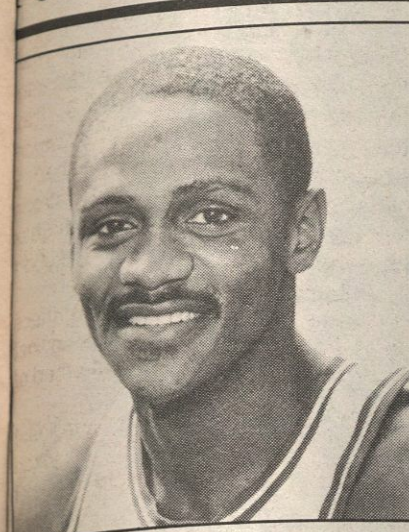
He offered these statements for print.

In Milwaukee: "I was just mad... I just reacted and it was a stupid thing because it didn't do any good and I lost an opportunity to play more minutes."

In Chicago: "I fouled (Paxson) and the ref thought I fouled him too hard. He called a flagrant foul and he threw me out."

The center declined further comment.

For Tracy Mitchell - Its a Long Way From Worcester



Tracy Mitchell: Back from Siberia?

Free Agent Tracy Mitchell, a 6-1 guard from Texas Christian, gained respect from coaches and players alike in last September's training camp. "I compare Tracy to Rickey Green," stated K.C. Jones on more than one occasion. The Lowell native made it through the first several cuts before finally losing out on a late round in the C's camp.

Mitchell played the season in the CBA with the Bay State Bombardiers, averaging 10.5 ppg and 7 assists.

Media Coverage: Los Angeles

Like a rite of spring, the play-offs have arrived, the time seemingly drawing closer when the Lakers (& Magic and Kareem and Worthy and Pat Riley) take the Boston Garden parquet to open the championship finals for 1985-86. Let us not overlook the obstacles young challengers like Atlanta (East) and Houston (West) impose. "We're getting older," Dennis Johnson carefully admits. Yet, smart money suggests the super teams will meet once more.

Michael Ventre of *The Los Angeles Daily News* has begun the covering of the Celtics for his paper. "They've sent me out here to do some features and to get the feel of what the attitude is around the Celtics," the young writer said last week.

Ventre anticipates the two teams will meet in the finals. "I think they will meet," he said.

"It will be a rubber match. I think one reason will motivate both teams to get that far this season. If there are no injuries along the way, this is the year no excuses shall be offered."

"In 1984, the Lakers allegedly gave the series away, when James Worthy threw the bad pass (Gerald Henderson intercepted the pass and sent the 2nd game into overtime). In 1985, Bird was injured and the Celtics inevitably were not the same team."

phasis is on development," Mitchell commented. For that, I am grateful.

"But I'm not too eager to repeat some of the traveling conditions. We had one game in Tampa on a Sunday night—and then we had another game scheduled in Pensacola the following night, on the other coast of Florida. We were literally huddled up in a van the entire night. I remember lying down on the floor between the seats and sleeping there the whole night."

Hollywood and Jack Nicholson is in the front row. The CBA has as a host city Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Bob Uecker broadcasts over in Milwaukee. Neither he, or Rodney Dangerfield, would dream of sitting in the front row at Stevens Point.

"The quality of play is surprisingly good in the CBA. We had a lot of good young players and the em-



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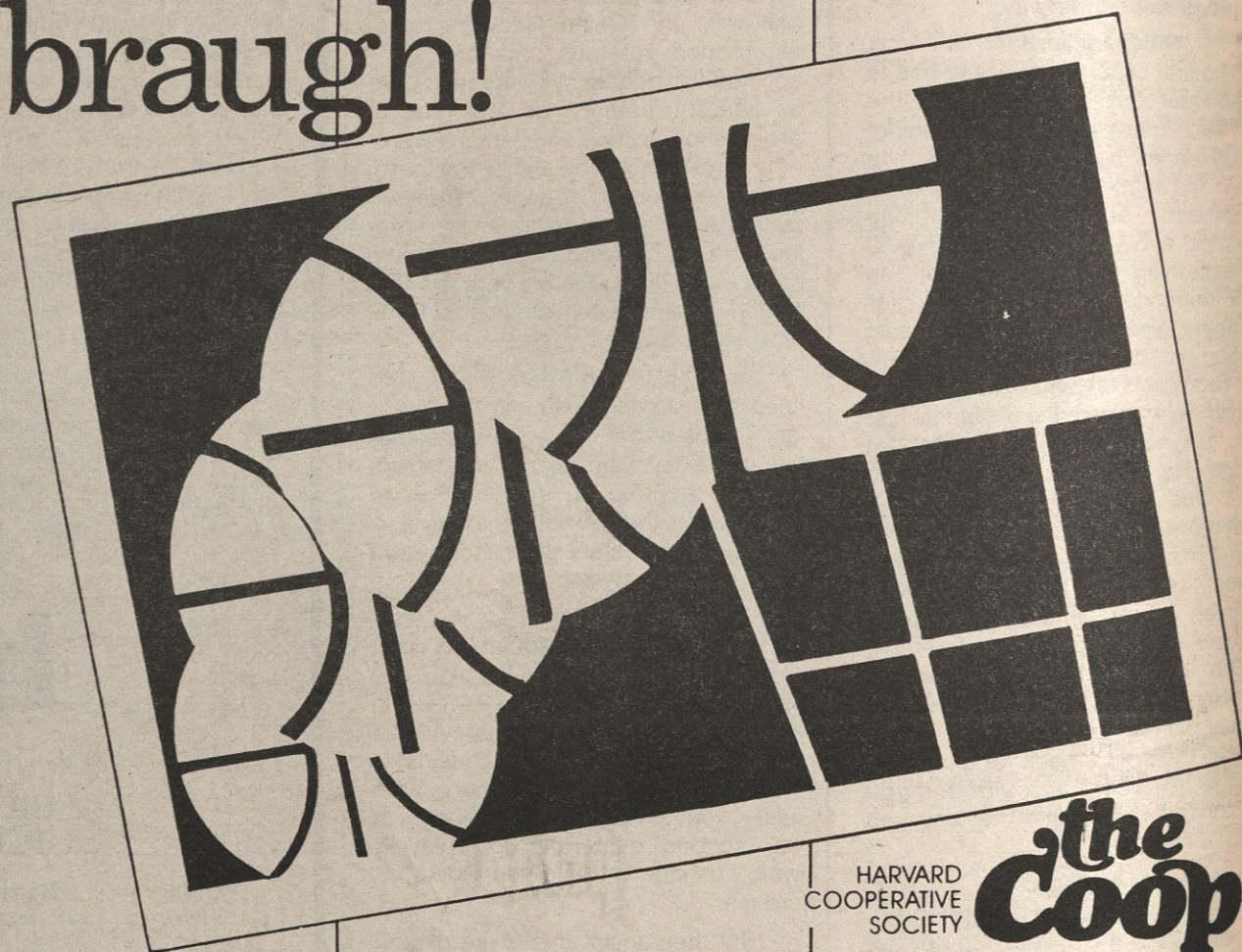
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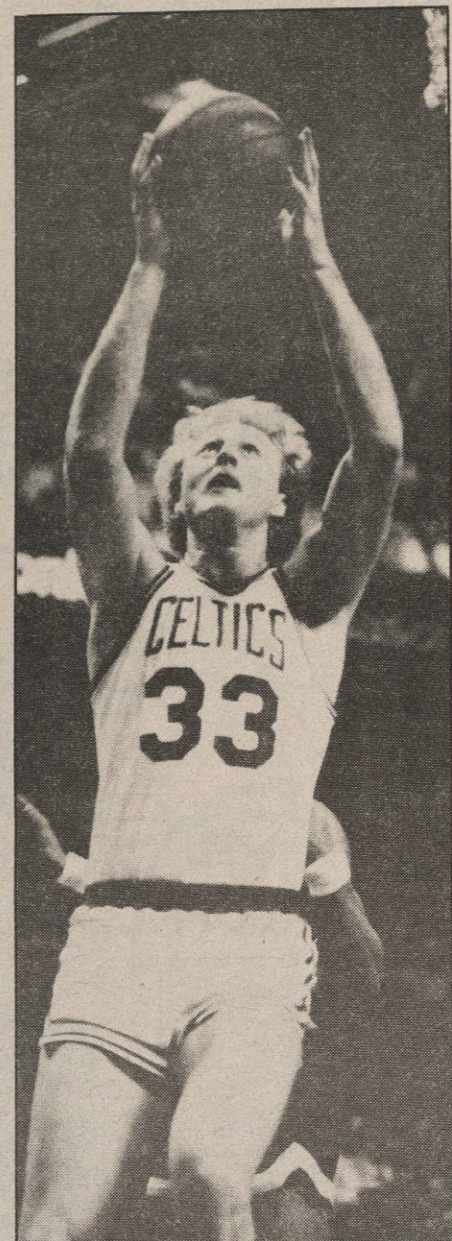
Glenn Ordway

Here Are Some Quickies

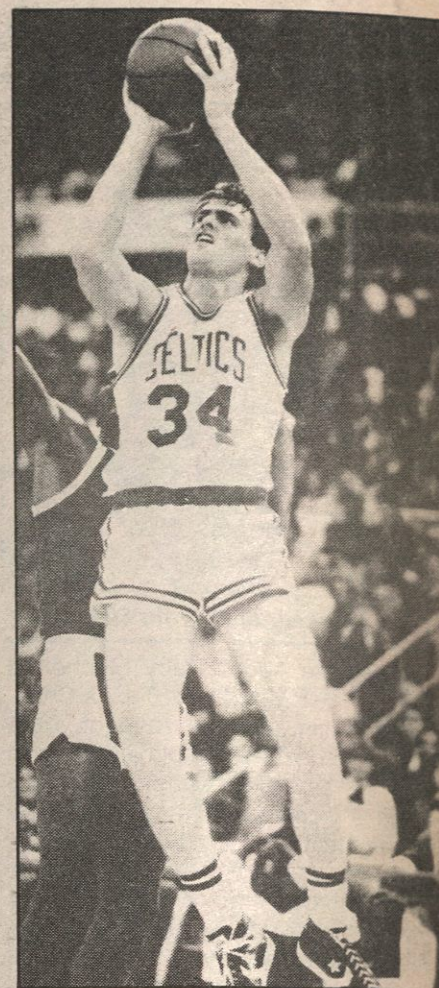
Here are some quickie observations on the season: Why were the Celtics such an improved team from a year ago? Three reasons...

(1) depth - Bill Walton and Jerry Sichting gave the Celtics a bench that didn't exist a year ago. Walton made Parish a better player and Sichting gave the Celts guard perimeter shooting off the pine. (2) Dennis Johnson provided the team with his best season ever. His stats don't show a great improvement but if you saw every game this season you know what I'm talking about (3) the improvement of Larry Joe Bird... that's right! After watching his phenomenal 84-85 season, I didn't think it was possible. But Bird is a better player this year than last... The Detroit Pistons will never be a contending team until they find a true post-up scorer. As it stands right now, believe it or not, Isiah Thomas is their only post-up scorer... The Atlanta Hawks have found the right way to rebuild-with speed and size. Give them another two years and then watch out... It seemed pretty obvious to me that no matter what the doctors said, Moses Malone was not going to play in the playoffs. After another first place finish for the Milwaukee Bucks it may be time for all to realize that

Don Nelson is not doing it with mirrors. He has some great talent on that club. ... The more I see Spud Webb, the more I believe he may have a fairly long NBA career. Can you believe the Pistons cut him the day before their camp opened? ...He doesn't get much attention but Rick Carlisle is the perfect fourth guard for the Celtics. He comes off the bench plays his six minutes and very rarely makes a mistake. He could be a strong third guard getting twenty plus minutes a night for a lot of other teams... I wonder if Houston regrets drafting Steve Harris instead of a Sam Vincent. It's become obvious that without John Lucas or a healthy Alan Leavell they need a point guard. Robert Reid can't do it against quick guards... And speaking of Vincent... Don't give up on this kid yet... He can play! The one problem he still has is making that decision on the drive. Go to the hole or dish off? That will come with experience. And experience comes with playing time. He was simply a victim of being drafted by a team loaded with talent. There are only so many minutes in a game... Talking about the draft, Chris Washburn's entrance into the NBA June 17 sweepstakes changes the complexion of the first round quite a bit. He has to be looked at as one of the



Bird: New, Improved Version



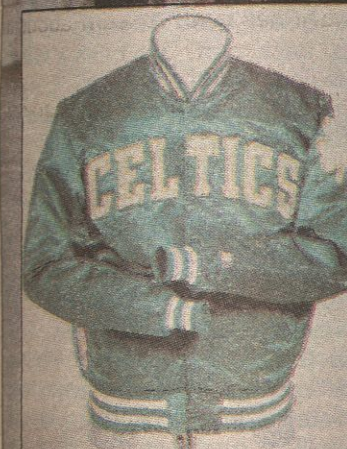
Carlisle: Perfect Fourth Guard

top three. He can play both big forward and center at 6'11" and still growing. The fact that he's so young and still has a lot to learn about the game may make him a better choice for a veteran team than a young team. Matter of fact, he wouldn't look too bad in a green and white uniform... Well, the NBA has decided to alter the draft lottery. Next year seven teams will vie in a lottery for three picks with the remaining four drafting back in reverse order of their regular season record. The change is expected to cut down on the number of teams tempted to "tank" a shot at the playoffs just to get a shot at the first pick in the draft. It's an improvement. But as long as the possibility to "tank-it" exists, a cloud will hang over this system... Did Gus Williams lose a step of two? Or is it just my eyesight? The rhetoric is already flying out of L.A. where Magic Johnson has gone on record as saying that the Lakers will not lose that Championship trophy...The Indiana Pacers look a heck of a lot better on paper than they do on wood (floors, that is)... Assistant coaches contributions to teams usually go unnoticed. Unless you ask the head coach. Jimmy Rodgers and Chris Ford have continuously devised defensive strategies to frustrate opponents without getting much credit. Just ask Michael Jordan ... It's still hard to believe that the Atlanta Hawks have trouble drawing people to watch their exciting brand of basketball... With a stockpile of draft picks, the Philadelphia 76ers may have a different look in two years...

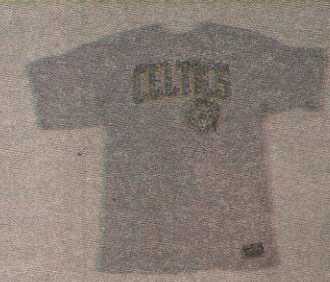
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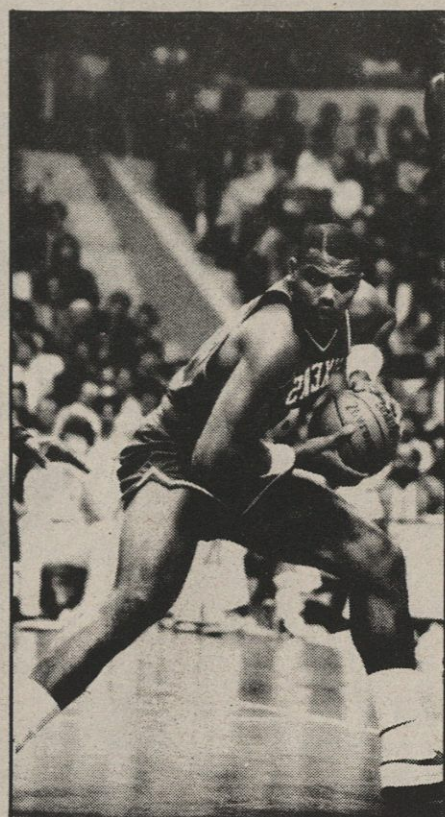


NBA Notebook



By Terry Lyons

Los Angeles Lakers center **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, who celebrated his 39th birthday on April 16, will set a bundle of records as he competes in the 1986 NBA Playoffs. The Laker captain already holds the all-time record for most points in the playoffs, starting post-season with 4,550 points. He tied **Dolph Schayes** record for most playoff appearances when he took the opening tip in the first round action against the Spurs making him only the second player to compete in the playoffs for 15 years ... Abdul-Jabbar can also take the lead in playoff games played during the Lakers matchup vs. Dallas. Former Boston Celtics great **John Havlicek** currently leads in that department with 172 games ... The Philadelphia 76ers made their 11th consecutive playoff appearance this year. The Lakers, with 10 straight postseason performances, are a close second in that category ... There's a possibility the 1986 NBA World Champs will play 26 games to take home the title. That's a maximum



Barkley: Led NBA in 20/20s.

of five games in the First Round (2-2-1 format), seven Conference Semi-final games (2-2-1-1-1 format), seven Conference Final games (2-2-1-1-1 format) and seven NBA Finals games (2-3-2 format) ... Last year, it took the LA Lakers 19 games to win the title while the 1984 Boston needed 23 games to claim the crown ... When Houston's **Ralph Sampson** badly bruised his back during a late-season game at Boston he was forced to sit out his first games as a pro. Sampson had played 236 straight contests.

Some important dates to keep in mind during the playoffs include: **May 3** -- the day college undergrads must apply to the NBA for early entry. **May 6** --

Basketball Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremonies. A news conference will be held at 10 a.m. featuring the six inductees, including former NBA greats **Billy Cunningham** and **Tommy Heinsohn** and Coach **Red Holzman**. There will be a luncheon at 12:15, then the Enshrinement Dinner at the Springfield Civic Center starting at 7 p.m. For further information or if you're planning to cover the event, contact **Jerry Healy** at the Hall, 413/781-6500. **May 11** -- NBA Draft Lottery at the Grand Hyatt in New York City. **May 28-31** -- NBA pre-draft instructional camp at Chicago. **June 17** -- 1986 NBA Draft at the Felt Forum in New York ... The Milwaukee Bucks have a streak of seven consecutive division championships under their belt, gaining the last six Central Division titles and the 1980 Midwest title. That streak is second best in NBA history to Boston's all-time record set between 1957 and 1965 ... Should **Dominique Wilkins** lead the Atlanta Hawks to the NBA title, it would be the first time the league's scoring champion gained an NBA championship ring the same season since **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** led the Milwaukee Bucks to the winner's circle in 1971.

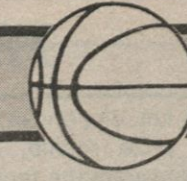
Most sports fans are aware that their hasn't been a repeat champion in the NBA since the 1968-69 Boston Celtics. For the record, the last NFL team to repeat was the 1979-80 Pittsburgh Steelers, the last Baseball club to repeat was the 1977-78 New York Yankees and the last NHL club to win back-to-back titles was the 1984-85 Edmonton Oilers ... The LA Lakers, who are trying to join the listing above, have won more playoff games (230) and series (56) than any other NBA team ... The Dallas Mavericks hope to keep their turnover rate at the NBA low it's been during the regular season. The Mavs finished the season averaging only 15.7 turnovers per game to mark the fourth consecutive season of

setting the league standards for execution ... Philadelphia's **Charles Barkley** led the NBA in posting 20/20 games (20 or more points and rebounds or points and assists). Barkley had five games of 20/20 in points and rebounds, including two over the Bullets during regular season play ... The Milwaukee Bucks will depend on their bench throughout the 1986 NBA Playoffs. During the regular season, the Bucks' bench outscored its opponents' 41.8 ppg to 33.7 ppg. The margin was even higher over the last 17 games of the season when the Milwaukee reserves held a 43.2 ppg to 30.5 ppg edge over their rivals' reserves ... Boston's **Larry Bird** became the second player in NBA history to rank in the top ten in five different statistical categories. Bird finished the season 4th in scoring (25.8), 7th in rebounding (9.8), 1st in FT Pct. (89.6), 4th in 3-pt. FG Pct. (42.3) and 9th in steals (2.02). In 1960, **Cliff Hagen** of St. Louis finished 5th in scoring (24.8), 5th in FG Pct. (.464), 9th in FT Pct. (.803), 10th in rebounding (10.7) and 10th in assists (4.0) ... Detroit's **Joe Dumars**, a member of the NBA's All-Rookie team, just loves pairing with All-Star guard **Isiah Thomas** in the Pistons' backcourt. "It's been a lot of fun playing alongside Isiah," said Dumars. "He's talented, he's been here for a few years and he never ceases to amaze you. There's millions of kids out there who would love to play beside him and I'm just one of them!"

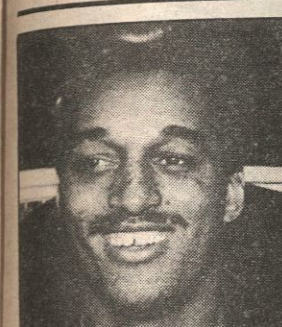
Elsewhere around the NBA: The Indiana Pacers named **Don Walsh** general manager and he assumed immediate control of the club's basketball operations. Walsh's promotion was coupled with the team's announcement that **Bob Salyers**, the club president for the past three years, would become general legal counsel and remain a member of the Pacers' board of directors ... On April 15, the LA Clippers announced that former NBA great **Elgin Baylor** would join the club as Director of Basketball Operations. Baylor, 51, stated that the club would retain Coach **Don Chaney** and his assistants, **Don Casey** and **Brad Greenberg**. **Carl Sheer** was relieved of his duties as Executive VP and GM of the club ... On April 16, the Cleveland Cavaliers announced Executive VP and GM **Harry Weltman**'s contract was not renewed and the club was immediately seeking the services of a new general manager ... Lastly, Chicago Bulls assistant coach **Murray Arnold** was named head coach of Western Kentucky University.



Roundball Spoken Here



Larry Bird



Dennis Johnson

Larry Bird about Michael Jordan: "Michael is the most exciting, awesome player in the game today. I didn't think anyone could do against us what Jordan has done in the first two games. I think it's God, disguised as Michael Jordan."

K.C. Jones about Michael Jordan's 63-point game: "I was watching the game and all I could see was this giant Jordan out there and everybody else in the background."



K.C. Jones

Dennis Johnson on his defensive role: "I know scoring gets the cheers. I hear 'em. And they're nice. Everyone likes attention; everyone wants to be a star. Earlier in my career that meant a great deal to me, too. But, now? Now it's different. What means a lot to me now is the respect of the other guys on the team; they give respect to me, and I give it right back to them. When I walk back to that bench and see six or seven hands reaching out to slap my hand while the coach is slapping my butt--hey, that's what it's all about."

Robert Parish about Michael Jordan: "His moves are awesome. When I was on the opposite side of the court from him, I couldn't help looking over my shoulder just to catch a peek."



Robert Parish

By the Numbers — April 14 - April 28

The conditions change, but the Green Machine continued functioning at high levels through the opening round of the playoffs against the Bulls, and in the first game of the Atlanta playoff series which opened in the Garden Sunday.

Larry Bird doesn't think the C's are playing as well as they have played during the season. Yet, in every game but one, the Celtics placed every starter in double figures. And, it took Jordan's original redefinition of gravity for the Bulls to break the century mark in the opening series. The Celtics held the Bulls to 104 twice, and then limited Wilkins and the Hawks to 91 Sunday, and .406 shooting.

KEVIN McHALE: McHale's injury during the middle of the year produced a temporary amnesia among the scribes who determined MVP voting: the man was and is a legitimate candidate. Entered the post season on a 22-25 from field and continued tempo through Chicago and Sunday. He celebrated 1st Team Defense by limiting Orlando Woolridge to 21; he combined with team defense to stop Wilkins (13) Sunday. He scored 27 in both games in Boston against Chicago, the 2nd, with 15 rebounds and 6 blocks. Then, when the C's went after Chicago from the opening tap in Chicago Stadium, it was with an old, trusty formula, too! Work McHale low. The C's pulled away to a 28 point lead en route to easy win and sweep.

LARRY BIRD. The above said about McHale's MVP candidacy, the most complete player ever persisted with his actual MVP season into the post-season. Without Bird, the Celtics fail to win. He had 36 (2 3-PT FG), with 12 rebounds and 8 assists in 135-131 2-OT win over Bulls. This followed 30 point, 8 assists, 6 rebound, 3 steal effort in opening game win. 16 point, 12 rebound, 6 assist game Sunday. According to Bill Walton, "Rick Barry was the best forward I ever saw---until Larry Bird."

ROBERT PARISH. In CBS telecast of Atlanta-Detroit contest, rookie Jon Koncak was running the floor and Brent Musberger stated that Akeem Olajuwon was the best running center in recent memory. Memories are short, apparently, under bright lights. Robert Parish has defined the running center during the eighties, as David Cowens did so in the seventies. Parish virtually won both opening games of Chicago and Atlanta series with such tactics: in the latter, Parish had 3 transition baskets and four slam dunks (a shot he says fires him up). 23 points 10 rebounds, 2 blocks in Bulls' opener; 16 points, 10 rebounds in Hawks' opener. Despite poorer game in Game 2 of Bulls' series, still hit game-winner.

DENNIS JOHNSON. Without a moment's second thought, despite Jordan's unprecedented flight to another constellation in the universe, K.C. Jones was astounded when informed Dennis Johnson made only the Second Team All Defensive Team. While Jordan went wild in

Game 1, Johnson carried the offense in the 2nd half, scoring 16 3rd quarter points. 16 points, 6 assists in Game 3; 16 points, 14 assists in Atlanta opener.

DANNY AINGE. Ainge staggered the closing two months of the season but has upright matters in the playoffs. For example, he controlled the offense from the backcourt in Game 2 (as DJ had in Game 1) of Bulls' series: 24 points, 5 assists, 4 rebounds, and dramatic game-tying drive to send the game into OT. Continued...20 points, 7 assists in Game 3, and 17 points, 8-10 from field, with 3-pointer in Atlanta opener.

BILL WALTON. C's recent 6th Men and their attributes: Havlicek brought speed and streak scoring, Silas size, rebounding, and intimidation, McHale scoring, and now Walton: Defense, passing, rebounding, leadership. His classic performance in Game 2 of Bulls series: 15 rebounds, 10 points, 1 block in 25 minutes as Celtics won on a Parish off-day. 10 points, 9 rebounds in Game 3 of Bulls series.

JERRY SICHTING. Continued his season-long contribution: when Jones goes to him off the bench, Sighting sustains the high level of play of the starters. Shot 4-5 from field in the first two games of the playoffs, including critical basketball when the C's rallied from the dead in Game 2, OT.

SCOTT WEDMAN. Despite statistical lag (and foot injury), he is playing well. Played error-free nine

minutes in Game 1 of Bulls' series; played strong off the bench in that series' finale: 4 points, 5 rebounds in 13 minutes. Two points and 4 rebounds in 15 minutes Sunday.

RICK CARLISLE. Helped chase Jordan in Bulls' series. Picked up an assist in Game 1, and in finale, scored on his only attempt in four lonely minutes. Best stats in Atlanta opener, 3 points (3-4 from FT line) and 1 rebound.

DAVID THIRDKILL. Third was part of the Jordan posse briefly in Game 1, but only for a minute. Scored only field goal attempt and grabbed a rebound in Game 3 of Bulls series. Two DNP's in two other games.

GREG KITE. Best statistics were in Game 1 of Atlanta series: seven support minutes, 1 point (1-2 FT), defensive rebound, and steal. Ejected from Game 3 of Bulls' series when he tossed team nemesis Paxson into the depths of noisy Chicago Stadium.

SAM VINCENT. Interesting commentary came out in *The Globe* by Red Auerbach on the upcoming draft (Celtics are in the lottery). Auerbach rated Daugherty, 1st; Washburn, 2nd; and Bias, 3rd. Dawkins, considered by many to be the finest guard out of college in years, was rated 7th (of C's priorities) by the President, The Talent Eye. This may change, of course, but it does indicate that the brass continues to be very pleased with the rookie Vincent who has borne the burden of DNP nobly, this season.



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The Highs and Lows of Celtics Rookie Sam Vincent

Sam Vincent is the Celtics' prize rookie, one of the players the team is building the next championship era with. Vincent played on Michigan State's NCAA tourney entry last season; like this year, Vincent's Spartans were defeated in a preliminary round of the playoffs. About this year's entry, Vincent took into account the peculiar events of the Michigan State loss (The clock stopped for approximately 30 seconds of playing time and the Kansas Jayhawks rallied to win); "that was tough luck, but if State had made their free throws, the clock wouldn't have mattered."

Perhaps Vincent has developed a hardened exterior this year; he expected to play more in his rookie year, but has logged limited time. He has matured through the experience (the personal defeat). He writes of his first year--in high spots and low moments, his interests, his fun--for *Celtics Pride*.

By Sam Vincent

Now that the regular season has ended, it seems to be a logical time to examine my first year in Boston. I am delighted to be here, I say that about everything. It has not been a perfect year, but there is no place else I would rather be. I am with a winning team, a top organization. The players on the team are talented and personable. And Boston is a fabulous city to be living in.

I have lived this season in the Chestnut Hill area, a place where there are many young people, a place where I have been able to orient myself in a reasonable time frame. Basketball is indeed a unique occupation (entertaining, in the public eye); but in many ways I feel I am another young professional in Boston.

This is part of the way I've approached spending most of my time on the bench this season. In any job, a man in his first year defers to seniority. You watch. You study. You develop your thinking, knowledge and understanding at your current level in your profession. I suspect it's the same in the accounting area, or computers. I think it's learning on the job.

The year has been a testing experience. I have played at every level and stood out. I did have certain expectations coming here. But if I have not played, I have learned a lot. You realize you have to work hard. In college, it's a game but in the NBA, you have to improve to stay in it. Merely to maintain your position.

The Boston metropolitan area offers culture and action. I've seen films (recently, "Hannah and Her Sisters", "Rocky IV", "The Hitcher", "Down and Out in Beverly Hills", and "Just Between Friends") and hit some clubs and restaurants. Among the latter: Scotch and Siroin, Rachel's at Longwharf, Narcissus, The Conservatory. I like having fun. I would also

have preferred to work on my major here this year, but at mid-season I decided to wait until the summer 'til I return to East Lansing.

Boston is a point of departure in my profession, much of which takes place on the road. I enjoyed the game this year and I've adjusted fairly well to the traveling and the mental approach of the 100 game (approximately) season. I'm asked frequently if that is a "strain"; I have a philosophy that strain is self-inflicted.

The long season is pressure. Sitting was pressure. But I see it as a job, and I see it as the season. I guess that's the theater major in me; I am playing in something resembling a dream environment, a dream come true.

I suspect the team setting helped me here. Dennis Johnson has proved to be a tremendous guide; I really enjoy having an older guard who can understand what a younger guard is going through. The same regarding Quinn Buckner, who I met in Milwaukee recently. I have a lot of respect for a guard who has established himself over a period of time. You adjust; the older players have talked, gossiped, jockeyed with other team's players, studied the game. I've learned several details but in general, it's a mental game. You must have confidence-- the great ones, like Magic, Bird, Isiah have it -- to try the imaginative, the great plays. The key to greatness: if you fail, you have the courage to do it again.

And it's good times on the road, too. I went to Bennigans for dinner with my brother Jay in Dallas. Ate great Mexican food in San Antonio. I enjoyed a reunion with friends when we played in Detroit some time ago. When we were in Atlanta, my Michigan State teammate, Kevin Willis, and I went to the Oak Tree Disco to listen to music.

It's been an intriguing year in my life this season. I have set some high goals for myself. I'm determined to be the best player I can possibly be. But you go through a season, and you realize the complexity of the business. The highest and most talented players do it in the NBA. You're playing with men now. Perhaps a year to study, know, understand, and master the game was needed. I struggled early, but I was never frantic, never approached that point. I always wanted to play, but at no time did I get headaches, or did I question myself or my abilities. I consistently approach it this way: what will happen, will happen. God has blessed me, has gotten me to this point. Events will turn out OK.

My high point this year personally was winning the Player of the Game in December. I came back to my apartment, saying, "I got it!" And in the company of these great players, this type of team. The low point: not playing, but it never was a tragic scene. I'm at the beginning of my career, my profession. Too much ahead to dwell on the negative.

For The Serious Celtics Fan!

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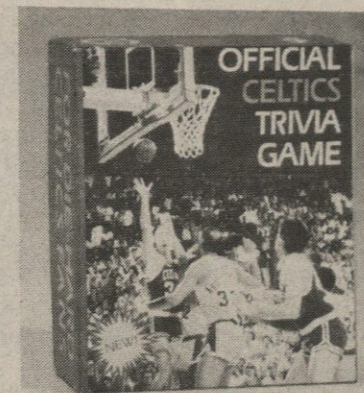
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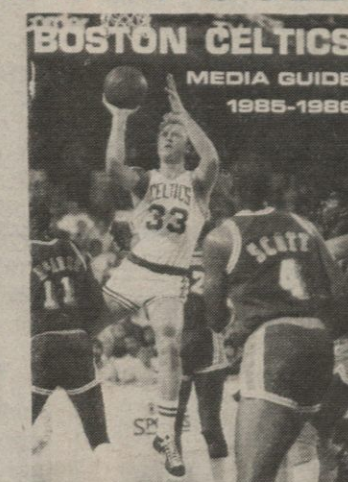


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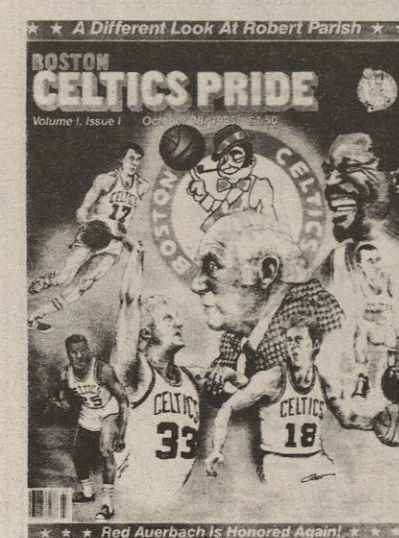
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Celtics Classics

1960-61

The 1960-61 season marked the third NBA championship for the Boston Celtics. And this particular Celtics team had an interesting mix of players.

There was guard Bob Cousy, who was still a passing wizard at age 32, rookie Tom Sanders, already a proven defensive ace and veterans Bill Russell and Tom Heinsohn, both of whom had been in the NBA wars a few years and were reaching their peaks. And lest we not forget Sam Jones, entering his fourth year in the league and just beginning to reach stardom. K.C. Jones was in his third season and his talents on the defensive end were well-chronicled. Frank Ramsey was there, too.

Also wearing the green and white that year were Gene Conley and Jim Loscutoff, a pair of role-playing bangers, and Bill Sharman, who was on his last legs, but still managed to average 16 points a game that season.

"This is the greatest team ever assembled," Red Auerbach said at the time. "And there are two reasons for that. One is the way the guys get along together and play as a unit. On some teams the players get into each other's hair over a long schedule. That doesn't happen here."

And the other reason we're so damned good is the quality of our people. We've always got somebody ready to explode. And one of them can tear you apart. One night it's Heinsohn. The next night it's Sharman, or maybe it's Ramsey or Sam. And, of course, there's always Russell. Someone is always picking up the slack for us.

"With most teams you can win if you stop one man, stop Chamberlain and you win. Stop a Pettit, a Baylor a Schayes and you win. But you can't stop the Celtics that way. That's why we're the best."

Auerbach wasn't one to throw praise around liberally, so what he said had to be taken seriously. And who could argue with the facts?

The Celtics won the Eastern Division by a whopping 11 games, posting a 57-22 record along the way. It was their fifth straight division title.

In the playoffs, Boston beat Syracuse and St. Louis by margins of 4-games-to-1. The Celtics were so dominant in those playoffs that their smallest margin of victory was nine points.

Not even a riot could stop the Celtics march to the title.

In game four of the Eastern finals at Syracuse, a nationally-televised afternoon game, a 10-minute brawl broke out between Celtics players

Sheer Excellence



1960-61 — A mix of greats

and a handful of Syracuse fans, Loscutoff, as usual, was right in the middle of the melee, and was shown in local papers being restrained by a policeman and arena usher.

There's no telling who won the battle, but Boston won the war, with a 120-107 victory over the Nationals. The Celtics didn't have to deal with making a return trip to upstate New York, as they disposed of the Nationals in the following game at Boston Garden to secure the NBA crown.

The preceeding series against the Hawks wasn't completely peaceful either. St. Louis had a nifty

51-28 record during the regular season, but the Hawks were pounded in resounding fashion by the C's. This proved quite frustrating to rookie St. Louis Coach Paul Seymour, who nearly got into a fight with Cousy. Cousy was in the midst of a 22-point 11-assist night when the incident occurred. And in one of the great ironies in Celtics history, it was none other than Loscutoff who was a peacemaker, defusing the near fight. Loscutoff was generally used to starting them, or at least not turning the other cheek. By the way, the Celtics won that contest by 15 points -- 119-104.

In the ensuing game, Russell bagged 38 points and 30 rebounds, as the Celtics wrapped up the title with a 121-112 triumph over St. Louis. In 10 1960-61 playoff games, Russell averaged 19.1 points, 29.9 rebounds, 4.8 assists and played an incredible 46 minutes a game.

"Russell never stopped," Seymour said when the series was over. "Every time I looked, he was blocking shots, dunking shots, playing every guy on the floor at one time or another, just to let them know who he was. It's the same old story -- he's a big man in a big game."

Hawk center Clyde Lovellette, who would later become a Celtic teammate of Russell's, had praise for him as well.

"He doesn't have very wide shoulders," Lovellette said, but he's great enough to put four men on his back and carry them."

Syracuse Coach Alex Hannum had his fill of Russell and the Celtics in the previous series. Oh, he was impressed just a smidgen.

"I put Bill Russell in another world as a basketball player," Hannum said. "There's nobody like him. Nobody."

And there was no team like the Celtics of that era.

"For sheer excellence, you couldn't beat those Celtics teams," Kerner said. "The way they'd run and move the ball was something to see. It was thrilling to watch, even while they were beating you. No other team played that way."

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Past and Present

Celtics Greats

Nellie, K.C. and Houdini of the Hardwood

Playoffs - Pleasure and Pain

One doesn't have to look very far to find former Celtics great Don Nelson. He's currently coaching the Central Division champion Milwaukee Bucks, who knocked out the New Jersey Nets in three straight games in their playoff opener. The Bucks and Celtics could very well be on a collision course to set which team earns the right to represent the Eastern Conference in the NBA championship series.

Since Nelson joined the Bucks in 1976-77, the Celts and Milwaukee have met twice in the playoffs. The Bucks swept Boston in four straight three years ago, and the Celtics took the Bucks in five games in '83-'84.

Not only does Nelson have over 60 games of playoff experience as a coach, he's been through the post-season wringer as a player, too. Nelson played in 150 post season affairs, all but 16 (which were when he was a Laker) with the Celtics.

Ironically, one of Nelson's biggest highlights in the Celtics uniform came at the expense of the Lakers. It was back in 1969. The Celtics had a 103-102 lead in the sixth game of the championship finals against Los Angeles, needing a victory to seal the title. The Celtics, who had blown most of the big lead, had the ball with 1:20 left and the 24-second clock down to almost zero.

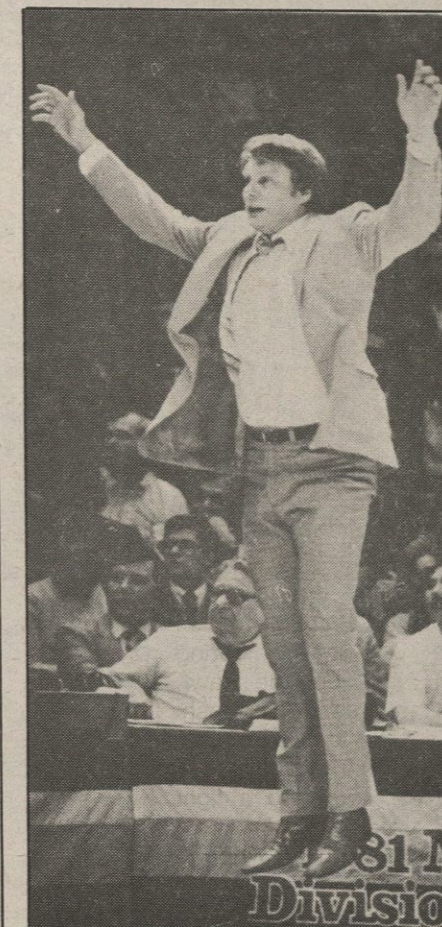
John Havlicek went up for a desperation shot, but the ball was knocked away. However, Nelson picked it up to the right of the key and heaved the ball toward the basket. The shot hit the back of the rim, bounced straight up some three feet, then dropped right into the hole. That gave the Celtics the impetus to win the game and take home the NBA crown.

That is one day, one game, one shot Nelson will remember the rest of his life.

"It's that lucky shot everyone seems to remember," Nelson said. "The Lakers had cut our lead from 17 points to one. The shot didn't feel good and I didn't think it would go in. I was just hoping I'd hit the rim in time so we'd have a chance at the rebound. It was a high arching shot and hit the back of the rim."

"The ball bounced straight up, about as high as the top of the backboard-- it was agony watching it come down-- and it dropped straight through. Swish!"

Nelson doesn't believe the two-pointer was a matter of talent. It was more like good fortune, plain and



Nelson: Nothing but net.

simple. "Of every 100 of those bounces, 99 will go astray. This was the one in 100--plain lucky. But it counted. We won by two points and I didn't give it back."

And what does Nelson tell people about the shot?

"I say that shot hit nothing but string-- on the way down, I neglect to mention that the ball took one very big and very lucky bounce along the way. It was my biggest basket ever, helping win a world championship."

Speaking of former Celtics players embroiled in playoff battles against the Lakers, current Boston Coach K.C. Jones will never forget this particular episode.

"It was the championship series and the first two games were in Boston, I had a good game covering Jerry West in the opener, holding him to something like 16 points. After the game, the press crowded around my locker-- something I wasn't used to-- and it seemed like every newspaper writer in the country was there. They were asking, 'What did you do to him? How did you stop him?'"

So I held court. I lost my head and told them everything. I did this and that and that and this and so forth and so on. Man, I really poured it on."



K.C.: Humbling experience.

Jones wasn't as ebullient after the following game.

"West scored 43 the next night. I had forgotten that besides knowing what to do with a basketball, Jerry West also knew how to read. It taught me a very big lesson-- be it ever so humble when you're covering a superscorer. It was a very embarrassing playoff game for me."

Bob Cousy wasn't embarrassed right before the sixth game of the 1962-63 finals between the Celtics and the Lakers (who else?) He was, however, in great pain. Early in the fourth quarter of the sixth game with



Cousy: Limped to the title.

the Celtics up by 10, Cousy tore a ligament in his left foot. The pain was such that Cousy had to leave the game and get the attention of trainer Buddy Leroux. Cousy was never one to beg out of competition, especially this time, since he had already announced his retirement after the end of the season.

"Our lead had dropped to one point with less than five minutes remaining. It was important to me that I get back in, I hoped my presence might have some psychological impact, both on my teammates and the bad guys."

"I knew I'd have limitations with the foot, but my teammates and opponents wouldn't know that. So I hoped to give the Celtics a mental lift and the Lakers something more to think about. I also didn't want to end my career on the sidelines."

As it turned out, everything worked out just fine for the Celtics. Leroux taped the foot after freezing it, Cousy felt fine and the Celtics went on to clinch the title.

"It was good that we wrapped it up that night," said Cousy, who is calling the shots as a Celtics broadcaster. "There's no way I could have played a seventh game. I couldn't walk the next day."



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